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LONDON, SATURDAY, JANUARY 29, 1849.

REVIEWS

Goethe and his Works.—[*Goethe und seine Werke*]. By Carl Rosenkranz, Doctor of Theology and Professor of Philosophy in the University of Königsberg. Königsberg, Bornträger Brothers; London, Thimm.

In the highest order of poets men have never failed to recognize, sooner or later, this essential fact, namely, that they are speakers of wisdom and truth as well as musical singers and creators of beautiful images. In this sense they might truly be called *vates*—*prophets*, in a meaning of the word often used in the Sacred writings; not as foretelling particular events that were to happen, but as men endowed with a superior faculty of insight generally, and full of a living power to impress its revelations on the hearts of their hearers. The impressions were not, indeed, the same to all, or all of the same kind. Of the gifts of their inspiration many would at once be felt and enjoyed, like the open blessings of Nature—visible images, burning words, both directly pleasing or moving all that could see and hear. Others, instinct with deeper meaning, could not be so readily communicated or carelessly imbibed. The riches that lay on the surface of the poem were indications of mines beneath it; signs promising the reward of treasures to a more profound research. No true poet's work is superficial. Genius, indeed, produces nothing, in its smallest operations, that is wholly trivial or limited. But in some eminent instances an attentive study of the poet's whole design and utterances is felt to promise a peculiar gain;—something far more than the discovery that all genius is inexhaustible. In these the beauty that attracts at the first glance is but an animated symbol of ideas in which the whole range of man's deepest and highest interests are mirrored. The image of these, as it appeared to the gifted author, is felt to be traceable, with more or less completeness, by a close and affectionate study: and in this impression—whether partially or completely conscious, still the same essentially in all periods—men have addressed themselves to search out and interpret not only the whole outward meaning and harmony, but also the inner sense of the imagery and music of great poets. Some of them have been objects of this study while they yet lived,—with some it began immediately after their death,—others have waited longer for the homage due to them. It was more than a century after his decease before any one had discovered that Shakspeare deserved and could infinitely reward an expositor. A chair in the University of Florence was founded to explain the *Divina Commedia* scarcely fifty years after Dante had ceased to exist: the substance of Boccaccio's lectures on that immortal poem (in 1373) has been preserved to this day. Many of Goethe's works were eagerly commented upon during his lifetime; and the business of interpreting and illustrating them, with censures and hostile criticisms not a few, has since been taken up with increased energy. It may be long yet before the commentator feels his occupation gone, or the world is satisfied that it possesses the authentic key to all the treasures locked up within the compass of a few volumes. It lies in the nature of the works themselves to command this kind of attention. In Germany there are especial circumstances tending to develop it with peculiar energy.

In nature the least fragment of diamond is a perfect crystal that receives and reflects the whole being of light. The smallest of the creations of pure genius, in whatever art, are in their

essence infinite. The more thoroughly they are felt—the more deeply they are studied, the further will they be found to expand beyond arbitrary limits. Their significance, as addressing itself to the whole of the human faculties, is in this sense inexhaustible. In the highest productions of this power—conversant with the nature and destinies of man, the laws of his being, the strivings of his soul, his relations to the visible and invisible world—the utterances of the Poet are felt by all but the merely insensible to partake of the inspired and mysterious character which the ancient world ascribed to its oracles. They are at once songs impressive and delightful to the least attentive that can listen to their music; and intimations of which the largest perception can never compass the entire reach. This last is the condition which renders all the great poems of the world an un-failing source of thought, and an object of perpetual study,—always progressive, always new. To those only who have run carelessly past these treasures of the human mind will the description appear questionable. All who have endeavoured to obtain any real command of their intentions and full significance will know how they expand in all directions around the intellect that tries to comprehend them wholly. The *Divina Commedia* has been a subject of commentaries and explanations for nearly 500 years; and who that now attempts to master its design throughout, and extract its whole meaning,—with all the aids of many preceding minds to assist him,—can satisfy himself that he has discovered all its vast and varied significance? At every step the eye which is duly intent on the master's pregnant lines and mysterious images perceives new depths that previous students have never yet sounded; and the longer it dwells on this great work the larger—the more immeasurable, indeed—will its proportions appear. The labours of ages cannot draw the well of genius dry.

In our own Shakspeare the region presented to the mind is more various, brighter, nearer to many sympathies, but illimitable as Nature herself. The very floods of his mirthfulness well forth out of depths, some murmurs of which all can feel, but which none can say they have entirely fathomed. In his lightest scenes there is scarcely a finger moved that does not, for the instant as it were, draw aside an invisible curtain, and let in glimpses of vistas interminable in every direction. Who has solved—who can pretend to make plain—the Proteus form of mystery that sits at the heart of all his great characters? They have been for years the food of conjectures and theories, and will for ever continue, while language lasts, to supply food for more:—not because the descriptions already found are false,—in all there is some truth,—but because no limited description can contain their *whole* truth; because in Shakspeare's perennial and infinite variety there resides all that human intelligence can expressly trace and define, and far more than all its several efforts can grasp and individualize at once. To every new mind he offers new discoveries; and in the progress through his manifold domain no finite capacity can any more reach the *ne plus ultra* than it can contain the material universe.

In the present day it can no longer be necessary to discuss the claims of Goethe to a place amongst authors of this high rank. He has ascended to it with the step of irresistible power,—and is now established there with the sanction of cultivated Europe. With those who may be inclined to contest his right to this position we can have no controversy:—it is too late to discuss the refusal of honours which have already

been granted by acclamation. We must regard Goethe, as he has been placed by the Areopagus of educated Europe, as the head of the poets of Germany,—as the largest, clearest, most universal mind of his time: a time, moreover, in which the elements of social life were thrown up into strange confusions by a general earthquake that shook the foundations of Europe, and all the ingredients of its moral and political constitution have had to arrange themselves anew. Of the productions of such a man, destined to live through such a period, the importance must, in any condition of things, have sooner or later been seriously appreciated: and the desire to obtain the fullest possible understanding of his thoughts and works may be regarded as a natural condition of his appearance. There are, however, as we have said, in Germany peculiar reasons to quicken this impulse;—causes that fully explain the fact of an amount of interest, inquiry, disquisition, and commentary having been bestowed on his writings, which, at the first glance, even taking his high position into account, may seem extraordinary.

Of the number and nature of Goethe's critics and expositors we do not pretend to give any complete description. Many we have seen—many more, no doubt, are unknown to us even by name. He has been an object of every kind of disquisition. Viehof has reviewed him in the character of a lyrical poet,—Dünzer as a dramatist. On his *Hermann und Dorothea* William V. Humboldt has written an essay; Frederick Schlegel another on his *Meister*;—other works have been the subject of separate treatises, by Ritscher, Hotho, Varnhagen von Ense, &c. The commentaries on *Faust* are innumerable:—of the list of writers on this chapter, the names of Göschel, Hinrichs, Deyck, Schubarth, Vischer and Meyer, form only a small portion. Riemer, Falk and Eckermann have each given us books of personal reminiscences;—Vogel devoted one to Goethe in his official character as minister:—all these are treatises exclusively occupied with the man or with his writings. It is unnecessary to name half of the books on the literature of his day, in which, of course, he occupies a chief place; those of Menzel, Gervinus, Franz Horn, Hillebrand, are but a few of the most considerable. Besides these, Gutzkow and others have treated the works and character of the poet in a polemic style; and such opponents have called forth a host of defenders, whose name is Legion. Altogether, the mass of commentaries and criticisms would form of itself no inconsiderable library. Of those which appeared during his lifetime, the poet himself never took the least notice;—nor did he even append to his works—with one single exception, the *West Oestlicher Dician*—any explanatory notices whatever. He gave them to the public, each for itself, to find acceptance for such qualities as it might be felt to contain, and to be interpreted by what might be collected from the body of the composition. A work that required the author's explanation could not, he thought, be deemed a complete whole. We shall only further add that besides the native commentators, Goethe has occupied some minds of no common order out of Germany.

We speak of "Germany" as of a whole:—but, in fact, no such unity exists between the various kingdoms of which the body so described is composed, except only that which is found in the possession of a common language. Of the interests, social, political and commercial, which bind a people together, many of these distinct sovereignties have none whatever in common. There is no single central point in any such respects to which the German, in whatever part

of the continent between the Rhine, the Baltic, and the Danube, can turn his eyes for a representative of his nationality. The subject of Austria, the Prussian, the native of the Black Forest, or of the Franconian States, has each a different past, looks up for the present to a different head, and must view his practical relations with reference to the mere section to which he belongs. In the volume before us, this circumstance is adverted to in various passages, one of which we translate, for the sake of its brevity and point.—

We Germans are no political whole, hardly a nation. The mould of our characters is fashioned far less by princes, statesmen and commanders, than by our artists, poets and philosophers. The nation, as it exists is split into several branches and states; the political history of which takes a different course in each. While the Prussian, the Brandenburger dwells on the memory of Frederick the Second, the Wurtemberger can feel no such recollections:—he reverts to Duke Ulrich:—the Bavarian, the Saxon, again, to some other hero. How totally different is the condition in other countries.—of the Frenchman, for example, who, with his Francis the First, his Henri Quatre, his Louis the Fourteenth, can at once embody the distinct character of his entire nation! We have no royal dynasties that can present to our minds a general reflex of the history of the Germans. Their place is supplied to us by intellectual heroes. We find the nation identified by a Luther, Hütten, Kepler, Herder, Schiller, Pestalozzi, Fichte.

In this one respect only, all who speak German can feel that they have a common country. Their poets, their men of learning and science, belong to all alike; every German can share in the feeling of allegiance to that sovereignty of Mind which is all that remains of a German Empire. The interests that in other countries take a political form, the higher feelings of express nationality, are thus by the very circumstances of the region wholly thrown upon the intellectual world;—a circumstance, the disregard of which has given occasion to more than one species of hasty and unfair judgments on the duties and actions of eminent German writers. They have, for instance, been condemned for an indifference to politics by censors who, themselves belonging to some great political whole, have overlooked the fact that no such object can present itself to the eye of a German as a national unity in which he can take any share or claim any part for himself. His views in this direction are bounded by no act or will of his own, but by the limits which confine the particular state—it may be some little territory scarcely larger than an English county—of which he happens to be born a subject. Were he inclined to indulge in political excursions beyond these limits, he must at once be stopped by the fact that, instead of having a common interest to engage his zeal, there is here a Bavarian, there a Saxon, and yonder a Prussian,—but nowhere, in this class of objects a German field of politics. What wonder, then, that minds, to which the separate policies of minor insulated bodies can present no features large enough to fulfil the idea of a national whole, should pursue with peculiar warmth the only form in what it can appear to any German in the mind of this divided territory! Here there are no boundaries recognized; all are fellow-citizens who speak the common language; and the poets and wise men who have made it the vehicle of their thoughts are honoured by all alike with a willing and universal allegiance, at Zurich as well as at Königsberg, at Trèves and in the Tyrol not less cordially than in Berlin, Leipsig, or Vienna.

Bearing this condition of the Germans in mind—it will be seen that, without dwelling upon any peculiar disposition of theirs to a thoughtful rather than a practical life, we may discover external

causes sufficient to concentrate on subjects of mental and literary interest most of the energies that in France or England find an occupation in the politics of the time. The German feels his nationality in letters alone; and it will readily be perceived what intensity this circumstance must give to the interest naturally due to the thoughts and writings of eminent authors—for which also certain tendencies of character which seem to be on the whole common to the entire German family of people, strongly predispose them. No surprise will then be felt at the manner in which Goethe's works have busied the minds of all,—at the pains devoted to their elucidation, and the warmth excited in defence or attack of various positions, touching the man or his works,—at the number of writings of all kinds, many of them considerable books, which we have seen already dedicated to this subject. Of such, the work now before us is one of the last published; it is also the most comprehensive, we think, that has hitherto appeared.

It contains the substance of a series of lectures delivered last winter in Königsberg, by Dr. Rosenkranz, one of the professors in that university—a man already favourably known as a writer on more than one subject of literary and philosophical criticism. Amongst these may be named a history of Kantism, a critique of Schelling's doctrines, and a scientific exposition of the principles and writings of Hegel, contained in a biography of that philosopher. He has also published more than one treatise on literary subjects. What we have above said will prepare the reader to observe without surprise a complete course of lectures devoted to the examination of Goethe as a man, poet, and teacher. The idea of a great appearance in these several qualities, which, in all higher points of view, are but complements of one and the same highly gifted character, is still a topic than which none could be named of deeper interest for an educated German audience. In the preface to these essays we have a simple and not ungraceful proof of the reality of this feeling. The Professor reverts, in terms that can hardly be read without some emotion, to the cheerless winter circumstances under which the lectures were given, and to the manner in which they were received by his audience.—

"My hearers," he says, "not students only, but men of all classes—were so regular in their attendance, so intent on the subject, that I am indebted to them for an essential part of this performance. I am accustomed, indeed, to address numbers; but on this occasion the genius of Goethe kindled an electrical excitement in the audience, and transmitted its fire to the speaker. We all grew warmed with the subject as we proceeded; and forgot the stable-lanterns with which at first the gloomy space of a large low lecture room, the least inviting possible to the æsthetic sense, was sparingly lighted up,—we forgot the mouldy scent of walls dripping with damp,—forgot the cold that compelled us to wrap our cloaks closely around us, and that at times even benumbed my cheeks and lips. Now, and then, when a tempestuous wind was raging, or the drifting sleet hid every object but a few steps before me, I doubted, on my way to the *Albertinum*, if I should find any one there. But there were they all, my constant hearers; and, busied with Goethe, we forgot the rudeness of the weather."

It is almost needless to remark that to an audience whose eagerness such positive discomforts could not chill, the subject must have presented itself as claiming something deeper than a merely literary interest,—that its import must have been felt sufficient to engage the whole

minds of the hearers, when it could thus carry them over circumstances that no simply pleasurable excitement could surmount. To many of us the incident may seem unaccountable; it is, however, the better worth noting for this very reason, as a proof of the deep hold on the German mind of influences that are seldom allowed to penetrate below the surface of ours. Whether our practical or their spiritual zeal be the more worthy, it is not our purpose to discuss; the existence of the latter, in its relation to intellectual works in Germany, is, at all events, a fact that belongs to any tolerable understanding of their literature.

The student of Goethe will find in Dr. Rosenkranz's essay a valuable guide to such a general survey of the position, characteristics, and genius of the poet, as is indispensable to any true appreciation of his works. The lectures embrace a view of his entire literary career, displaying the successive periods of his chief productions and the development of his mind in its several stages of advance; and show with considerable judgment the connexion in which his various compositions of all kinds will be found each fulfilling its part in the completion of a rich and well-ordered whole. In pursuing this course the lecturer has many errors of partial criticism to correct, not a few of the poet's detractors to expose and confute; and openly bears himself throughout as the cordial and reverent admirer of the great man whose labours in the mission intrusted to him he has undertaken to describe. The task is performed for the most part in a tone of enthusiastic respect and admiration; but it does not appear to us that the lecturer's zeal has led him into any indiscreet panegyric, or made him unduly bitter against those who do not believe in his idol. In spite of his rhetorical warmth, the explanation of Goethe's chief works is always close and thoughtful, and at times may be called peculiarly happy;—the lecturer shows himself thoroughly acquainted with his subject in all its properties and incidents, which are discussed with an elegance of style and a nicety of distinction that attest at once his philosophical training and his feeling for poetical literature. On some of the poet's most pregnant compositions his commentaries are both lucid and felicitous; and few of the readers of Goethe, however well they may deem themselves initiated in his works, will fail to derive fuller and clearer views of their direction and import from the indications given by Dr. Rosenkranz. Of these the most valuable in our opinion are the commentaries on the two parts of *Faust* and on the *Meister* volumes. On portions of the first-named poem, especially, this essay throws a light which to us, at least, was new; and it approves itself to our minds, on the whole, as the most satisfactory exposition that can be given, within the precise limits of criticism, of a work in its very nature illimitable. At other times the commentator has been less happy: his conjectures as to the substantial allusions which peep through the phantasmagoria of *The Märcchen* are quite unsatisfactory to us; more so, indeed, than any other attempts we have seen to unriddle that wild and beautiful enigma. In most cases, however, we are disposed to subscribe with hardly any exception to his views, whether of the author or of the man;—indeed, the idea of Goethe in the latter aspect which the essay presents, differs little from that which is now becoming, we apprehend, the received one in all the higher intellectual circles of Europe. Already many poetical and political cavils which were rife enough a few years since have sunk into discredit; and there is little doubt that before long the image of this great genius and truly noble man will be visible from its proper elevation to

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all friendly eyes in a region above the floating mists of passion or prejudice.

In a journal itself devoted to criticism we shall hardly be expected to give extracts from a critical essay; and, in this case, to do so could not much assist our general description of Dr. Rosenkranz's work,—because his dissertations are on a scale far too broad to be fairly exhibited in these columns. The retentive memory and ready faculty of speech which enabled the lecturer to deliver his criticisms *extempore*, while it must have given animation to their delivery, has somewhat impaired their compactness; and the texture of the book, in which they are now set down pretty nearly as they were spoken, although full of good substance, and far from inaccurate in expression, is rather looser and at times more rhetorical than a prepared essay would have been. The reader, however, will perhaps feel that by this kind of utterance it has gained in warmth what it may have lost in compression:—and no one, we think, can close the book without having added something to his means of appreciating its subject, or without entertaining a friendly opinion of the Professor who could so cordially deliver himself on a theme more than commonly various, deep, and extensive.

Travels in the Great Desert of Sahara, in the Years 1845 and 1846. Including a Description of the Oases and Cities of Ghadames, Ghat and Mourzuk. By James Richardson. 2 vols. Bentley.

THIS book demands some attention as presenting a contribution, though not a very important one, to our authentic information relative to the geography and life of an interesting, vast, and imperfectly known region. Mr. Richardson has been for some years, it appears, the correspondent, for Northern Africa, of a London journal; and is well acquainted with the principal coast towns from Mogador to Tripoli. An accidental circumstance excited in him the desire to obtain for his name a place in the roll of African travellers: and he formed a plan for penetrating into the slave hunting-grounds of Soudan or Bornou, across the Saharan Wilderness. He executed but a small part of his scheme; but he traversed some hundreds of miles of desert routes over which no European had previously passed,—and he describes some cities of the Desert respecting which we had before no direct account from any personal visitant. He possessed the advantage of a pretty intimate acquaintance with the Arabic language; and spent sufficient time in the towns of Ghadames, Ghat and Mourzuk, to be able to give minute particulars as to life in the Oases. Recording little of exciting adventure, as compared with the narratives of some former travellers through the wild regions of the same continent, his volumes yet possess enough of interest to prevent their being tedious; but they make a far larger demand on the reader's leisure than their subject-matter warrants. In the Introduction to these bulky volumes, however, the author intimates that he has more important matter in reserve as a result of his wanderings:

"In presenting this work to the British public, I have to state, that it is only *supplementary and fragmentary*. If, therefore, any one were to judge of the results of my Saharan Tour merely by what is here given, he would do me a great injustice. I had expected, by this time, that certain Reports on the Commerce and Geography of the Great Desert, as well as a large Map of the Routes of this part of Africa, would have been given to the public. It is not my fault that their publication is still delayed. I can only regret it, because what I am now publishing comes first, instead of last, and consequently demerits my plan, the following pages being, indeed, *supplementary* to the Reports and Map. I come,

therefore, before the public with no small disadvantage."

The reports of which the writer speaks we presume to refer chiefly to the subject of the slave trade; since his principal object, he tells us, on entering the Desert was to ascertain to what extent that trade was carried on in the Sahara. In the volumes before us it has been his endeavour "to give a truthful and faithful picture of the Saharan tribes—their ideas, thoughts, words and actions." As to the manner in which he has executed this intention, we must observe that his journal is ill-written, abounding in tautology and other faults of style—yet shows him to be a minute and intelligent observer. His Introduction is deformed by a large amount of folly in touching upon matters which he does not understand,—and by coarse and intemperate invective against classes and individuals who in some of their views differ from himself. The following may serve as an example:—

"As to Cobden, his Cobdenites and Satellites, they would sell their own souls, and the whole human race into bondage, to have a free trade in slaves and sugar. This new generation of impostors—who teach that all virtue and happiness consist in buying in the cheapest and selling in the dearest markets—are now dogging at the heels of Government, in combination with the West India agents, to get them to re-establish a species of mitigated Slave Trade, because, forsooth, there should be right and liberty to buy and sell a man as there is right and liberty to buy and sell a beast."

From oracular flippancy like this we gladly turn to Mr. Richardson's travels. His starting point is Tunis; whence he sailed with a negro—whom he had recommended to escape from slavery, and who accompanied him throughout his journey. At Tripoli our author joined a caravan proceeding towards Ghadames, distant in a south-westerly direction 15 days' journey, or about 300 miles. In the mountains they visit a robber tribe, by whom they are hospitably entertained. They reach Ghadames on the 25th of August—after suffering much from heat. In a subsequent journey in mid-winter, their chief source of suffering is from cold—intense cold, though in the Sahara.

The oasis of Ghadames is about five miles in circumference. The city—whose inhabitants were variously stated to our traveller as numbering from 500 to 10,000, but which he estimates at 3,000—is surrounded by walls built partly of sun-dried brick, partly of dried stones and earth. "These are in a ruinous condition, and in many places open to the Desert. But within these outer walls are garden walls and winding paths; so that the approaches to the city are difficult except by the southern gate. Formerly, four or five gates were open; but the Rais has shut all but this for security, as well as for facility in collecting the *octroi*, or gate dues." The interior aspect of the town must be strange and cavernous. The houses are high—some containing four stories; and the streets are roofed over at an altitude sufficient to allow the passage of the largest camels—an occasional opening being left for light. There are many squares; of one of which—that of the Fountains—the author gives a sketch. One house which he visited—and which he describes as exemplifying the general arrangement—was without ground-floor apartments, the lower rooms being used as magazines. The principal hall was surrounded by small chambers, in which sheep were in process of fattening. The sheep is to the Ghadamsees what the pig is to the Irish. The story above this was occupied by a sleeping room, and there were other small rooms on the terrace or flat roof. Stone stairs formed the means of access from one story to another. The principal tree of this, as of other oases, is the date

palm. In the gardens a few flowers are cultivated;—but the ground is chiefly devoted to corn and herbs.

The population of Ghadames, as well as of Ghat and Mourzuk, is of a mixed description. There is the original North African race, and there are Arabs and negroes from the South—with an infinite number of crosses between them. The Rais is a Turk, but he is the only one—and the only European resident. Our author was, he says, the *second* Christian who had visited Ghadames—the first having been the unfortunate Major Laing, who never returned to record what he saw in that city. Laing's residence of a few days, Mr. Richardson says, is forgotten by almost all the present inhabitants.

One of the most striking circumstances connected with the African desert is the scarcity of all forms of animal life. Our traveller saw no birds between Tripoli and Ghadames; and but a few doves, swallows, and one or two other small species in the oasis of the latter place. Birds of prey do not exist in the Sahara. The lion of the desert is a myth—the king of the forest contenting himself with his grove, and claiming no empire in the rocky and sandy wastes. The mouflon is hunted in the neighbourhood of Ghadames; ostriches are found nearer the coast; and there are rats, mice, and chameleons in the city and its suburbs. Even serpents, which it might be expected would abound in such a locality, are not met with in this oasis; and they are rare in other parts of the Sahara, though numerous in places on the coast. The only dangerous animals found at Ghadames are scorpions. Mr. Richardson was several times alarmed by these venomous reptiles; and records two cases of death from their sting which occurred during his stay.

The people of Ghadames are a quiet, inoffensive race,—who have a great horror of the shedding of human blood. Some of their neighbours are of a different stamp, and live by throat-cutting; yet so great is the indolence of the Ghadamsees that they will not be at the trouble of repairing their walls, which are ill calculated to exclude an enemy coming in any force. Without strife of some kind, however, it would seem that the world cannot advance; and this quiet little city has a house of Capulets and one of Montagues.—

"I had to-day some talk about the two great political factions, the *Ben-Wazeet* and the *Ben-Weleed*, the Whigs and Tories of Ghadames, but pushed to such extremities of party spirit as almost to be without the limits of humanity. Notwithstanding the assumed sanctity of this holy and *Marabout* city of Ghadames, and its actually leaving its walls to crumble away and its gates open to every robber of the highways of the Desert—trusting to its prayers for its defence and to its God for vengeance—it has nourished for centuries upon centuries the most unnatural and fratricidal feuds within its own bosom, dividing itself into two powerful rival factions, and which factions, to this day, have not any *bona fide* social intercourse with one another. Occasionally one or two of the rival factions privately visit each other, but these are exceptions, and the Rais has the chiefs of the two parties together in Divan on important business being brought before him. In the market-place there is likewise ground of a common and neutral rendezvous. Abroad they also travel together, and unite against the common enemy and the foreigner. The native Governor, or *Nather*, and the *Kady*, are besides chosen from one or other party, and have authority over all the inhabitants of Ghadames. But here closes their mutual transactions. It is a long settled time-out-of-mind, nay, sacred rule, with them, as a whole, 'Not to intermarry, and not to visit each other's quarters, if it can possibly be avoided.' The Rais and myself reside without the boundaries of their respective quarters, so that we can be visited by both parties, who often meet together accidentally in our houses.

The Arab suburb is also neutral ground. Most of the poor strangers take up their residence here. The *Ben-Wezeet* have four streets and the *Ben-Weled* three. These streets have likewise their subdivisions and chiefs, but live amicably with one another, so far as I could judge. The people generally are very shy of conversing with strangers about their ancient immemorial feuds. I could only learn from the young men that in times past the two factions fought together with arms, and 'some dreadful deeds were done.' My taleb only wrote the following when I asked him to give some historical information respecting these factions:—'The Ben Weled and the Ben Wezeet are people of Ghadames, who have quarrelled from time immemorial: it was the will of God they should be divided, and who shall resist his will? Yâkôb, be content to know this!'

One would imagine that an oasis of five miles in circumference might be sufficiently limited as the scene of action of a life, for persons of either sex. The women here, however, as in other Mohammedan countries, are confined within narrower bounds. They are described by our traveller in favourable terms.—

'The white women, or the respectable women of Ghadames, white or coloured, never descend to the streets, nor even go into the gardens around their houses. Their flat-roofed house is their eternal promenade, and their whole world is comprehended within two or three miserable rooms. The date-palms they see, and a few glimpses of the desert beyond—and this is all. Truly it is necessary to establish an Anti-Slavery Society for the women of this oasis. I have visited a few of them in their private apartments with their husbands, in my capacity of quack-doctor. None of them were fair or beautiful, but some pleasing in their manners, and of elegant shape; they are brunettes, one and all, with occasionally large rolling, if not fiery, black eyes. They are gentle in their manners, and were very friendly to the Christian. Many of them, in spite of their seclusion, showed extreme intelligence; they are also very industrious. My taleb assured me the little money he got from keeping the register of the distribution of water, and other minor matters, could not keep his family, and his chief support was from the industry of his wife in weaving, whom he highly praised, adding, 'God has given me the best wife in Ghadames.' Most of the women weave woollens enough for the consumption of their family, and some for sale abroad. The education of the women consists in learning by heart certain prayers, portions of the Koran, and legendary traditions of the famous *Sunnat*. The women are proud of their learning and the men pride themselves in saying, 'Only in this country are women so well instructed!' Besides this, they have the privilege of going to the mosques very early in the morning, and late in the evening, where they say their prayers like men, at least, so I understood from my taleb; but a Christian must not ask questions about women in these countries.' We might have quoted further, were it not that Mr. Richardson's tautology becomes painful.

On the 25th of November our author left Ghadames to proceed to Ghat,—accompanying a caravan which consisted of about 80 persons and 200 laden camels. The distance is about 400 miles; and the time necessary for the transit, to a large caravan, something more than twenty days. There are four or five routes; of which the most easterly—one never traversed in summer, on account of the scarcity of water—was chosen on this occasion. On this route there is no inhabited spot until within two or three days' journey of Ghat; the intermediate space consisting of the wildest desert, almost wholly without vegetation or animal life. The creatures seen during the journey consisted of a few crows, insects, and a lizard. It is amusing to observe the confidence with which Mr. Richardson states what is and what is not to be found in the Sahara—and "pooh-poohs" the accounts of former travellers where not confirmed by his own experience, though frequently finding that one day corrected the false conclusions at which he had arrived on the preceding. Thus,

having advanced several days after leaving Ghadames over rocky and earthy wildernesses without crossing fifty yards of sand, he had just satisfied his mind that the sandy desert was not a sandy desert—when he arrived at a region of sand *hills* which the caravan took days to cross, and which occasioned a considerable modification of his views. None of the routes between Ghadames and Ghat had been previously traversed, as our author affirms, by a European. In that over which Mr. Richardson travelled he met with no objects particularly deserving attention. The oasis of Ghat is smaller than that of Ghadames;—not more than three or four miles in circumference. The city is picturesquely situated in a mountainous district, but its buildings are of a meaner appearance than those of the town previously visited. Our traveller's stay of six or seven weeks in this place appears to have been far from agreeable—though not attended with any serious dangers. His health and spirits were declining; and this, with the accounts which he heard of the perils of the Southern route, induced him to abandon his intention of proceeding to Soudan. He was annoyed by the frequent demands made on him by the sheikhs and others for presents—and by the insults which he received from some classes of the population on account of his religion. He was here in the region of the Touargees, a brave people (certain tribes of which are not, however, to be trusted) whose dominion extends over a vast portion of the Sahara, reaching southwards as far as Kanou and Timbuctoo.

Having decided to return to the coast, *via* Mourzuk, our author left Ghat on the 5th of February for the former town,—accompanying a small slave caravan. This journey, though of but fifteen days, was more eventful than the former ones. Its most important incident, so far as our author was concerned, was his losing himself in an excursion which he made on foot, and alone, to some curious hills a few miles to the westward of the route of the caravan; on which occasion he had to spend the night in the vast solitude, entertaining but little hope of being able to rejoin his fellow-travellers on the following day. He was, however, fortunate enough to fall in with them at last—though not until reduced to a state of complete exhaustion and despair. At Mourzuk he got into a region of which we have before had ample accounts. There he visited the grave of Ritchie (the companion of Capt. Lyon), who died in that town. From thence he proceeded by Sockna to Tripoli;—where he arrived on the 18th of April. He gives the following statement as to the time spent in travelling and the amount of ground traversed:—

"It is now just eight months and a half since I left Tripoli for Ghadames. I have passed eighty days, or nine hundred and sixty hours, out of this on the camel's back, and made a tour in the Sahara of some one thousand six hundred miles. I reckon my distances and days thus, averaging one with another:—

From Tripoli to Ghadames	15 days.
From Ghadames to Ghat	20 "
From Ghat to Mourzuk	15 "
From Mourzuk to Tripoli	30 "
Total	80 "

These eighty days, at the rate of twenty miles per day, make 1600 miles. I walked every day, one day with another, about two hours, which, at the rate of two and a half miles per hour, makes the distance of four hundred miles that I went on foot through the Great Desert."

With regard to the cost of his travels he adds:—

"My whole expenses, including servant, camel, provisions, lodging, Moorish clothes, &c. &c., for the nine months' tour did not exceed fifty pounds sterling, and nearly half of this was given away in presents to the people and the various chieftains who figure in the journal. I am sure, for I did not keep

an exact account, my expenses did not exceed the round number of fifty by more than half a dozen pounds. I hope, therefore, I shall not be blamed for want of economy in Saharan travelling, especially when it is seen that the Messrs. Lyon and Ritchie expedition cost Government three thousand (3000) pounds sterling, whose journey did not extend further south than mine, nor did they, indeed, penetrate so completely into the Sahara as I have done."

Having abandoned his leading purpose—of penetrating into Bornou or Soudan with the object of collecting information relative to the slave trade and the means best adapted to lead to its suppression,—Mr. Richardson has not given so much prominence to the subject of that trade as he would otherwise have done. He has not neglected it, however; but offers some suggestions, which may be worthy of attention, relative to that stream of the traffic which flows northward over the Sahara.

The Hellenics of Walter Savage Landor. Enlarged and completed.—Poemata et Inscriptiones novis auxil Savagius Landor. Moxon.

THESE two volumes, though perhaps "caviare to the general," will establish for their author a high place as classic and as poet. Mr. Landor stands out from among his contemporaries as one preferring the "audience fit though few," and of free self-will ignoring the many as an incompetent tribunal. He is for high art in literature, for antique models—classical severity. In all this there is something of presumption, doubtless; but there is also much of legitimate assumption, and less of vanity than at first sight seems. Mr. Landor as a poet has shown a decided predetermination—"a foregone conclusion,"—of which his actual works are but dreamy denotements. The consciousness of power implied, though not justified in its whole extent, has yet commanded the respect of kindred minds; until at last a professed acquaintance with his productions is accepted as some evidence of a refined taste.

To the charge of "self-sufficiency" which has been brought against him we think Mr. Landor must plead guilty: but it is not a charge from which he need shrink though true. It is desirable that an author should feel himself independent, whether as thinker or doer. Originality can proceed from no other principle. What we have to consider is, whether the individual mind is naturally strong enough for self-support,—and whether it has so nourished by acquisitions those inborn energies that constitute genius as to justify its inward promptings by external corroborations. Mr. Landor's works supply abundant proof of knowledge, learning, and talent:—but the talent is peculiar in character. It has, there is no denying, an air of caprice—loves paradox—dislikes plain speaking,—and while it affects to despise authority secretly submits to it, reproducing an old opinion in the guise of a new heresy. Qualities such as these frequently tell admirably in prose disquisitions, but have an equivocal bearing on poetic art. In this the most direct methods are the best,—and all ambages lead in general but to lost time and labour.

Mr. Landor is one of those who love to make, if he cannot find, difficulties for the pleasure of surmounting them. This is the mental exercise in which he constitutionally rejoices. We may cite as a proof his Latin poetry; which, both in quality and quantity, presents a remarkable distinction in modern literature. In this language was originally composed his striking poem of 'Gebir':—we have it here amongst his 'Poemata,' an admirable Virgilian poem, instinct with grace and beauty. The author's own translation failed to convey the felicity of his original. On its first publication (so far back

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as 1798) the English version was unfavourably received by the critics. The diction was declared to be involved and difficult—it was certainly rendered obscure by too much compression; but the picturesque power of word-painting which it manifested was, nevertheless, too frequently displayed not to be acknowledged.

'Gebir' is not the only poem which Mr. Landor has written in both tongues. The volumes before us present abundant examples. Many are not new; some are now published for the first time;—but it is unnecessary for us here to distinguish the periods. Among the former, however, we recognize the story of 'Chrysaor.' To this on its first publication was attached a note on slavery, as some clue to its meaning. It needs elucidation. Of all allegories it is perhaps the most esoteric. But what has become of the strange fragments composing 'The Phœceans'?—For what the poet has chosen to retain, and to add, in this volume of 'Hellenics,' however, let us be grateful. He has been pleased to confine his specimens to those poems which are Greek either in subject or in spirit. It is difficult to select specimens from a book of the kind. Detached passages can scarcely represent poems whose merit consists rather in their coherence as wholes than in the brilliancy of parts.

Nine of these English Hellenics have here their Latin archetypes under the title of 'Idyllia Heroica.' The first entitled 'Cupido et Pan' is a fine conception. Its theme is Love's attempt to subject rude Nature to his own finer influence. Cupid finds Pan "stretcht at full length asleep;" and makes free with the Arcadian's pipe.—

Between his rosy lips he laid the pipe
And blew it shrilly: that loud sound did wake
The sleeper: up sprang then two cars at once
Above the grass; up sprang the wrathful God
And shook the ground beneath him with his leap.
But quite as quickly and much higher sprang
The audacious boy, deriding him outright.
"Down with those arrows, wicked imp! that bow,
Down with it; then what canst thou do?"

"What then,
Pan, can do, soon shalt thou see. There! there!"
He spake, and threw them at Pan's feet: the bow,
The golden bow, sprang up again, and flowers
Cradled the quiver as it struck the earth.
"Wouldst shame me?"

"In my conflicts shame is none,
Even for the vanquished: check but wrath: come on:
Come, modest one! close with me, hand to hand."
He rolled his yellow eyes, and suddenly
Scatcht (as a Fowler with his net, who fears
To spoil the feathers of some rarer bird)
Love's slender arm, taunting and teasing him
Nearer and nearer. Then, if ne'er before,
The roddy colour left his face; "say I said
He trembled too, like one whom sudden flakes
Of snow have fallen on, amidst a game
Of quoits or ball in a warm day of spring.

The shepherd-god treats with scorn the challenge of the boy-god; who appears to him as one having scarcely "seen thrice five years." Whereupon—

Shame and anger seized upon the boy;
He raised his stature, and he aim'd a blow
Where the broad hairy breast stood quite exposed
Without the goatskin, swifter than the bird
Of Jove, or than the lightning he has borne.
Wary was the Arcadian, and he caught
The coming fist: it burnt as burns the fire
Upon the altar. The wise elder loost
His hold, and blew upon his open palm
From rounded cheeks a long thin breath, and then
Tried to encompass with both arms the neck
And waist of the boy God: with tremulous pulse
He fain would twist his hard long leg between
The smoother, and trip up, if trip he might,
The tender foot, and fit it again
The uncertain and insatiate grasp upon
A yielding marble, dazling eye and brain.
He could not wish the battle at an end,
No, not to conquer; such was the delight;
But glory, ah! deceitful glory, seized
(Or somewhat doltish) born not to obey.
When Love, unequal to such strength, had nigh
Succumbed, he made one effort more, and caught
The horn above him: he from Arcady
Laught as he tost him up on high: nor then
Forgot the child his cunning. While the foe
Was crying "Yield thee," and was running o'er
The provinces of conquest, now with one
Now with the other hand, their pleasant change,

Losing and then recovering what they lost,
Love from his wing drew one short feather forth
And smote the eyes devouring him. Then rang
The rivers and deep lakes, and groves and vales
Throughout their windings. Lodon heard the roar
And broke into the marsh: Alphæus heard,
Stymphalos, Menælos (Pan's far-off home),
Cyllene, Pholoe, Parthenos, who stared
On Tegea's and Lycæosia affright.
The winged horse who, no long while before,
Was seen upon Parnassus, bold and proud,
Is said (it may be true, it may be false)
To have slunk down before that cry of Pan,
And to have run into a shady cave
With broken spirit, and there lain for years,
Nor once have shaken the Castilian rill
With neigh, or ruffling of that mighty mane.

There is no disputing that this is in the high vein of poetry—full of the fine phrenzy and remarkable for elegance. We might proceed to quote Pan's lament for his blindness;—but will prefer to describe Love's remedy for the wrong, —and the manner in which unintelligent Nature baffles the benign purpose of the victor. "Peace," says Pan,—

"Peace is all I ask;
Victory well may grant this only boon."
Then held he out his hand; but knowing not
Whether he held it opposite his foe,
Huge tears ran down both cheeks. Love grew more mild
At seeing this, and said—

"Cheer up! behold
A remedy; upon one pact applied,
That thou remove not this light monument
Of my success, but leave it there for me."
Amaranth was the flower he chose the first;
Twas brittle and drops broken: one white rose
(All roses then were white) he softly prest;
Narcissus and violets took their turn,
And lofty open-hearted lilies their's,
And lesser ones with rosiest heads just rats'd
Above the turf, slaking alternate bells.
The slenderest of all myrtle twigs held these
Together, and across both eyes confined.
Smart was the pain they gave him, first applied:
He stamp'd, he groan'd, he bared his teeth, and heaved
To nostril the broad ridges of his lip.
After a while, however, he was heard
To sing again; and better rested he
Among the strawberries, whose fragrant leaf
Deceives with ruddy hue the searching sight
In its late season: he grew brave enough
To trill in easy song the plant names
Of half the Dryads: proud enough to deck
His beauty out, then went at last the band.
Renewed were down his sorrow and his shame.
He hied to Paphos: he must now implore
Again his proud subduer. At the gate
Stood Venus, and spake thus.

"Why hast thou torn
Our gifts away? No gentle chastisement
Awaits thee now. The birds my son imposed,
He would in time, his own good time, remove.
O goat-foot! he who dares despise our gifts
Rues it at last. Soon, soon another wreath
Shall bind thy brow, and no such flowers be there."

The next idyll, 'Pudoris Ara,' tells the story of the early loves of Leda and Helen and Penelope, with exquisite grace. This is followed by 'Sponsalia Polyxene'—a grand poem—the death of Achilles nobly treated. The fourth idyll, 'Dryope,' is on a less ambitious, but still a difficult theme: requiring delicacy and finish such as can be expected only from a practised artist—and is bestowed by Mr. Landor. 'Corythus,' the subject of the next pastoral, is not so happily managed—it is prolonged to tenuity. 'Pan et Pitys' is familiarly known:—"Coresus et Callirhoe" is rather commonplace—"Catillus et Salia" is an interesting tale: skilfully told. The closing poem of this class 'Veneris Pueri,' is also the crowning one. The two sons of Venus are its heroes,—and dispute before Silenus their prerogatives. As might have been expected, the jolly god gives his award rather in favour of the earthly than the celestial Eros.

'The Last of Ulysses,' in the English volume, is the counterpart of an epic poem in three books entitled 'Ulysses in Argiripa' in the Latin. It describes the last days of the hero, and his accidental death by the hand of his son Telemachus. There are a few pastorals preceding the 'Hellenics,' which have no Latin counterparts,—and some dramatic scenes, which are in a freer vein of composition than the rest. The habit of composing his pieces first in Latin doubtless gives that general air of affectation and restraint to

Mr. Landor's English verses which has gone far to prevent their popularity. To the scholar they will be rich in suggestion and classical association,—and otherwise valuable from the severe and earnest spirit in which they are conceived and executed. It only remains to add that the 'Hellenics' are dedicated to Pope Pius IX.;—who is, we think, addressed in terms rather too magniloquent and affected.

ANCIENT BELGIAN LITERATURE.

As we have given in previous numbers of the *Athenæum* [Nos. 1026, 1033, 1038, 1045] articles on Flemish Literature, it will help a general view of the subject if we throw a retrospective glance over the ancient literary history of Belgium—and give the reader a concise epitome of what she has done in former days. It is always interesting to trace the mind of a nation to its primeval sources of thought; and particularly so in this instance, because it is unquestionably true that most of the nations of Europe have, directly and indirectly, received considerable mental illumination from the early literary spirit and enterprise of the Low Countries.

From the earliest records of the country there have been two languages in Belgium—the Flemish or low Dutch, and the French. In the days of Charlemagne the former had made great progress among the people; and had assumed that regular construction and copiousness which are the common characteristics of an established language. Eginhart tells us that the Flemish tongue was a great favourite with him; and that he had himself written a grammar of it, as well as encouraged many learned and influential men of his day to cultivate and extend it with all assiduity and diligence.

The French language does not date further back in Belgium than about the middle of the ninth century. The first time we meet with it is in the public oaths administered to Charles the Bald and Louis the German, quoted by Nithard. About the same time a Benedictine monk named Milo, belonging to the Convent of St. Amend, in Flanders, wrote an interesting poem in rhyme on a *Dispute between Autumn and Winter*; and Willems has proved in his recent work that the Flemish poem of 'Renard the Fox' is as old as the twelfth century. It is a subject of deep regret that nearly all the early productions are lost; yet there are as many ancient fragments left as enable us to conclude that there was a rich and copious literature up to this period of Belgian history.

As Flanders advanced in civilization and commercial importance, her literature, as an almost necessary consequence, took a higher range and presented a more refined and polished character. Poetry, history, and the belles-lettres must have materials from the social and political habits and institutions of a people to work with; and such were produced in considerable abundance by the Crusades. These conflicts in the East gave a powerful impetus to the European mind generally;—providing every nation with a goodly stock of heroes and heroines for the improvement and refinement of its light and imaginative literature. Flanders entered warmly and devotedly into the chivalrous and religious contests; and her counts and governors appear in prominent characters in the wars, successes, and disasters of the Crusades. These circumstances furnished here, as elsewhere, materials for the poetry of the people by increasing the stock of romantic and tender reminiscences. Accordingly, we find, on the authority of Bishop Beaudri, that the wife of William the Conqueror, Adèle of Hainault, was distinguished for her lively and imaginative poetical productions. Bauduin the Fifth of Flanders, and his son, Bauduin the Sixth, were

both reckoned proficient in French poetry; and it is well known that it flourished luxuriantly in Belgium under Thierry and Philip of Alsace from 1120 to 1190. Maerland, who a few years later carefully and enthusiastically studied the Flemish poetry of the same period, speaks highly of it; and he was eminently instrumental himself in improving and refining it to a high degree:—so much so, indeed, that he is commonly considered the father of the poetical criticism of the Flemish nation. It may be mentioned here that the poetical effusions up to the twelfth century, both Flemish and French, are characterized by strains of good sense and a philosophical sentiment seldom to be met with in the early poetical productions of other European nations.

From this period we find the Flemish and French languages equally cultivated in Belgium in all branches of literature,—and traces of poetical works in particular in these tongues among nearly all European nations. For the purpose, however, of making a proper analysis of the treatises in each language, and to avoid the appearance of confusion, we will separate the two classes,—and commence with those authors who have written in the Flemish dialect.

Van Maerland, as already noticed, had in his day great influence over the literary taste of his countrymen, and introduced amongst them many useful critical reforms. His labours were chiefly directed to raise the tone of their poetical and imaginative compositions by banishing all tales and legends founded on the supernatural agency of demons, evil spirits, giants, and the like. He studied the social and political relations and duties of men; depicted the virtues and vices of particular classes of society; and developed the great and leading principles of action in human nature. This led the way to sound and wholesome thought. In addition to his own compositions, he translated many of the works of his time from the French and other languages into the Flemish. In his own two treatises, 'Rymbybel' and 'Spiegel Historical,' which are written in verse, we find an encyclopædia of information about everything which really affected the interests of the people in that age. It is impossible to glance over this work without a deep and lively interest. The general arrangement of the matter, and the clearness and eloquence of the composition, far surpassed anything which had fallen from the pens of preceding Flemish authors. Van Maerland lived about the commencement of the thirteenth century; and was secretary of Damme in Flanders,—then one of the most important and flourishing towns of the middle ages. Here it was that he wrote the 'War of Troy' and the poem of 'Alexander.' The imaginative power displayed in these works is not of the highest order; but they abound in just and noble sentiments, and the style is excellent. We detect in them the occasional employment of single French words along with the Flemish.

In the way of novels,—in addition to those already alluded to in our previous articles, we find three or four of later date, and of a very original character, both in matter and style,—'Karel and Elegast,' 'Floris and Blancefloer,' 'Bere Wishan,' &c. The Flemish text of these novels and romances is the oldest known. They were in verse,—and were purely imaginative effusions. Some striking incident in history or some renowned hero might be taken as a text; but all the machinery was of a fictitious character, and had no reference whatever to historical events of any kind.

In the Burgundian Library at Brussels we find a great number of old Flemish manuscripts composed of allegories, fables, love verses, and

popular songs. These were undoubtedly written in Belgium from the twelfth to the fifteenth century. The songs and ballads seem to be the oldest. They have often been reprinted with other poetical productions. In a former article we have noticed at some length the general character of these early Flemish productions.

As to dramatic poetry,—although none of the old Mysteries have been preserved, we have several documents to prove that many of them existed at a very early period of Flemish history. Van Wyn mentions a public document bearing the date of 1401, in which it is stated that a sum of *eleven gilders* was given to some men for playing 'The Resurrection of our Saviour.' We are in possession of some of the historical plays, such as 'Esmorée, Son of the King of Sicily,' 'The Duke of Brunswick,' &c. They are curious and interesting dramatic productions of a very early age. Esmorée is in verse; and has been translated into French by M. Serrure, of Gand, from a manuscript professing to be of the fifteenth century, but which has been proved by the translator and editor to have belonged to the thirteenth. The author of this ancient drama is unknown,—but the style clearly proves that he must have been a native of Flanders. We will state in a few words the substance of this piece.

A king of Sicily has a son in his old age. A nephew who had been led to expect the succession is inspired with a mortal hatred for the child, named Esmorée; and vows to be revenged by removing him from the presence of his father. The boy is sold to the king of the Moors; whose daughter, Damiette, falls deeply in love with him. The courtship is carried on for some time—and, after many adventures of a singular kind, ends in the union of the two youthful lovers. The plot of this dramatic piece is very simple,—and is worked out in the following manner:—The scene opens with a complaint made by the nephew Robert to the king of Sicily, on the birth of a child who must in all probability deprive him of the crown—which he had long reckoned on as his reversion. Robert vows openly his intention to make away with the child. In the meanwhile, Plancus, the astrologer of the king of the Moors, had informed his master that his daughter, an only child, would become a Christian and marry a founding. His Moorish Majesty is much astonished at this prediction, and not a little disconcerted. The astrologer points out, however, a way of escape from the impending calamity; and persuades the Moor that it is necessary, for the purpose, to obtain possession of a child just then born in Sicily. Arrangements are immediately entered into with the view of obtaining this prize. The astrologer is sent to that country with large sums of money, and arrives there at the critical moment when the royal child is about to be put to death. Robert, the agent in this foul deed, cannot resist the offer of a thousand pounds in gold, made by the astrologer for the child. The latter carries his prize to Africa; and advises the king of the Moors to have the boy brought up and educated within the walls of his own palace, in order that as he grows up he may be under the monarch's own eye. Years roll on; and Esmorée becomes a stripling, full of life and hope. Damiette falls, as we have said, in love with him; and in some stage of their tender intercourse informs him that he is not her brother, but a founding. Astonished at this revelation, and smarting under the sense of mortified pride, Esmorée determines to quit Africa immediately and with all privacy. Wandering in the forlorn hope of being able to find his parents, chance directs his steps to Sicily; where he discovers his mother in prison, under the false accusation of

having murdered her own and only child—brought against her by Robert, the nephew. An explanation ensues; the truth is brought to light,—and that truth is confirmed by the evidence of Damiette; who, prompted by her affection, had in company with the astrologer followed Esmorée in the garb of a pilgrim. The nephew is put to death; and the lovers are married, after embracing the Christian faith.

What is remarkable about this drama is, that it is not a *Mystery* nor a *Morality* in the sense in which these terms are commonly applied to such productions. It may be mentioned, too, that Germany—which prides itself so much on the copiousness and richness of its literature of the middle ages—has not a single drama anterior to the sixteenth: *Der Krieg aus Wartburg*, by Walfram von Eschilbach, being nothing more nor less than an indifferent poem in the form of a dialogue.

Reasoning on principles of analogy and on the constituted order of intellectual existence, it is but reasonable to presume that if in the thirteenth century we find three distinct orders of Flemish poetry generally and successfully cultivated throughout the country, the highest and loftiest species of verse, the Epic, would not be unknown. This conjecture we find to be correct. About the year 1291, John Van Heek composed his *Battle of Woeringhe*; which was dedicated to Margaret of England, wife of John, the second Duke of Brabant. It is a work of great merit. The descriptions and characters of the heroes are vividly and powerfully depicted. The poem might have been worked out with ten-fold effect if the author, instead of following the principles laid down by Maerland and keeping closely to historical truth, had allowed his imagination full play. His mental capabilities were of a high order; as the poem even now, crippled as it is by too rigid an adherence to reality, unquestionably evinces.

Near about the same date we find another historical poem, containing *twelve thousand seven hundred lines*, descriptive of the war between Godewaert, of Brabant, and the Lord Van Grimberghe. Here we have more imaginative power displayed, and the versification is more polished. Unfortunately, this poem has never been printed. There have, however, been long abstracts made of it; and these show the excellencies of the work. In the following century we find a purely historical poem, and three or four other works, which have lately been published by M. Willems. The first is entitled 'Brabansch Ycesten,'—and was finished in 1350, by a burgher of Antwerp, called Nicolas de Klerk. It is divided into five books; which embody a lively description of all the leading circumstances and events in the ancient history of Brabant. The same author composed a rhyming chronicle, of two thousand verses, on the Expedition of Edward the Third, of England, into Flanders;—from his first landing at Antwerp, until his return to his own country. This work is full of the most interesting details, and has been published in French, with notes, in 1841, by M. Octave Delepierre.

After the art of printing was fairly established, a great many Flemish works issued from the press. The 'Spiegel onser Bohoudenis,' or Mirror of Salvation; the 'Minneloge,' or Love-cases; the 'Vision of Tondalus,'—and many other approved works, made their appearance in the first half of the fifteenth century.—In the 'Love-cases,' by Nicolas Willems, we find a series of historical sketches of the most distinguished heroes of love-adventure. The style of these sketches is vigorous and pure,—the metaphors and comparisons are happily chosen,—and the sentiments and language are such as refined taste and purity suggest. The works of

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Jean Vilt, of Bruges, of Lambert Goetman, of Henri Bal, of Mechlin, and of Antony de Rovere, are among the most distinguished and best known of this period.

At the commencement of the sixteenth century we have the poetical effusions of a lady, who was called the Sappho of Brabant. Her name was Anna Byns, and she was a native of Antwerp. She published three separate collections of verses. In general they are characterized by lofty religious feelings and opinions. We give a freely translated line or two of one of her short poems.—

When on the verdant mead you tread,
And soothe your heart with Nature's charms,
Think of the land above your head,
Which spring, and spring eternal, warms:
Where ripen fruits on earth unknown
And flowers without or blight or thorn,
Though great the God whose word alone
Could thus with flowers the earth adorn.—
Yet cul in thought those fadeless flowers,
And seek in heart those happier bowers.

Shortly before Anna Byns, Cornelius Van Ghistele, an inhabitant of Antwerp, published translations of the Comedies of Terence, the Satires of Horace, and the Eneid of Virgil. They are all praiseworthy; the language pure, though the author does not keep very faithfully to the originals. John Fruytiers, of Brabant, among other productions in prose and verse, wrote a remarkable imitation of the Ecclesiastics.

Although the Spanish yoke was fatal to the Flemish language, it was always more or less cultivated, nevertheless, by men of distinguished talent. At their head during the 16th century we must mention Plantin, Kylian, and Marnix de St. Aldegonde. The philological works of the first two possess still a high reputation; and the last author is well known for his satirical and biting wit, and for his general style of writing—which bears a marked resemblance to that of Voltaire.

We might expatiate on the merits of many other writers of this period of history; but must hasten to enumerate the great authors of the century that followed. The writings of Simon Stevin, Van Metteren, Van Moerbeek, and Van Zeveote unitedly illustrate every species of literary composition—science, history, poetry, the belles-lettres, &c., and fully develop the richness, copiousness, and power of the Flemish tongue. An ode from the pen of Van Zeveote against the Spaniards has all the energy and revengeful pathos which tyranny stirs in the patriot breast.—

Trust to the winds or to the unruly waves,—
Trust to the ice or to a wayward child,—
But never trust to those whose faith was always hollow.
They have sucked treason with their mother's milk; more
than one noble country has been by them depopulated,
wasted, burned and thrown into slavery.
The snow shall cease to be cold, the sun to gladden the summer's morn, the clouds to fly through the air, the sea-coast to leave cliffs, and the fire to burn, ere the Spaniard shall lose his faith.

We cannot linger on the literary labours and merits of Daniel Heinsius, of Justus Harduyn, of William Van der Helst, of Olivier Vredius, and of Lambert Vossius—all entitled to distinction for their prose and poetic writings; but we must say a word or two for Jacobus Cats. He was one of those rare and vigorous intellects who stamp their imprint on the minds of a whole country. He is the poet alike of the people, of the philosopher, of the cloistered monk, and of the man of the world. His works are full to overflowing of useful principles applicable to every-day concerns and movements of human life. Everywhere, and on even the commonest topics, he displays surprising originality of mind and manifests the keenest powers of observation—tempered with the kindest spirit and exalted by the loftiest sentiments. He seems to have felt himself at home on almost every subject that he touched with his pen; and the two folio

volumes which he has left to posterity constitute one of the most varied and interesting repertoires in the annals of literature. In them solid instruction and amusement are blended in the most happy proportions. This celebrated author died in 1660. Willems, in his essay on Flemish authors, assures us that he knew several persons who could repeat from memory three or four thousand verses from the works of Cats.—How few writers can boast of a glory like this!

Summer's Evening Rambles round Woolwich.
By Richard Ruegg. Woolwich, Boddy.

THIS is a somewhat curious and not uninteresting volume;—both interest and curiosity arising out of the idiosyncrasy and position of the writer. Here is a peace-loving man—one who can no more suppress his abhorrence of war than George Fox himself,—and yet lady Fortune has located him within hearing of the eternal roar of Woolwich Arsenal. When we opened the work we were of course prepared for a specimen of Ercole's vein: but the style is simple, unaffected, and pleasant,—and before we had a suspicion of such a thing, we were out of the turmoil of the busy, bustling, dirty town, and strolling quietly over the marshes with a companion who would have been welcomed to Selborne by old White himself of honoured memory.

But, though Mr. Ruegg is a stout asserter of his opinions, he does justice to his subject; and gives a full, true and particular account of the history, such as it is, past and present, of arsenal and dockyard, town and suburb. The work is quaintly divided under heads called, 'An Evening with the Past'—'An Evening in the Public Establishments'—'An Evening with Birds'!—and 'An Evening with Man.' The meaning of these divisions is generally intelligible,—but the 'Evening with Birds' would seem as much out of place as the fly in amber. The truth, we take it, may be illustrated by the old anecdote of the Irishman who got rid of his bad shilling between two halfpence—so Mr. Ruegg has contrived to win an audience for his chapter on birds by passing it off between Woolwich and its environs. The heart of the book and the head of the man are in that chapter. There he is at home. Weary of the guns, drums, trumpets and thunder of the arsenal, he found a quiet resting-place for his wearied spirit in the silent desolation of the dreary marsh, where others could see nothing but ague, miasma, and wide wasting pestilence.

This dead, dreary level of unwholesome fen as it lived in our remembrance, turned out under Mr. Ruegg's hands to be a rich and fertile plain alive with objects of curiosity and interest. With what a heart-bound does the writer set foot on it!—

"Nature! kind mother of all that is gentle, and lovely, and true! with thy balm, and bloom, and beauty; with thy pure green fields, and sunny skies, thy garlands hung out on every hedge-row and thy banners on every leafy tree, who would be 'stoked, and coked, and smoked,' aye, and choked, too, by 'stern utilitarianism,' while he can enjoy one hour with thee? And the music that is all thine own! No 'grating of dry wheels on axletrees,' to set the teeth on edge; no grinding of organs, and hammering away at cracked pianos, and the shriekings of some vain pretender; but the ecstatic gush of clear music, pouring in rich cadences from the throat of the skylark, as with the bright dew sparkling on his wings, he soars aloft, far, far, away into the depths of yon bright immensity, till he becomes like a mere speck of gossamer, his song mellowed by the distance, and still heard, even when his form is lost from sight!"

Here, as we have said, the humble man is at home. "Birds," he says, "are my dear companions—their voices are those of old familiar friends." The following is a speculation which may interest some of our readers.—

"The voices of birds appear to me (the notion may be merely imaginative) a special adaptation to their localities and habits. Almost all the birds that haunt our coasts, and with the exception perhaps of the *anatide* or ducks, have a low melancholy wail, clear and melodious, but still wild, that appears to be admirably in keeping with the loneliness of the spots they inhabit. Before us lies the wide waste of waters, with here and there a heavy lagging sail, which seems to mock the very idea of life and bustle; around us spreads an unbroken extent of low marshy land, where no trees rear their heads, and where the rush and the samfon alone may grow. How beautifully in unison with such a scene is the clear shrill whistle of the curlew and plover, and the wild hoarse voice of the gull! It makes sadness pleasingly sad, and desolation more desolate, to listen to such sounds amidst such scenery. Who would like to hear them in the neighbourhood of his dwelling?—for which the busy chirp of the sparrow, the twittering of the swallow, and the loud clear accents of the danger-defying chanticleer, are so well attuned. Copse and woodland covert, hedge-row and orchard, seem made purposely for the clear music of the mavis and merle. With what clear accents burst forth these gladsome notes from every dell and dingle, and how harmoniously they rush through apple-blossoms, and may-flowers, and sweet smelling plants. They render rusticity more rustic, and are the most glorious peans that could be sung at the revels of luxuriant nature. Birds do not sing in winter amidst gloom and mist and thick-pelting snow, but reserve their songs for spring and summer, nature's fairest and rosiest holidays. Where shall the skylark find a freer temple for his rich morning song than the blue firmament, with azure above him and emerald shades beneath, and the bright sunbeams sparkling on every plume? Or what hour shall the nightingale choose for her clear calm orisons but the witching hour of eve, when the earth and all its creatures are hushed into a willing auditory? Surely the plover was made for solitude, and the mavis for glad retirement, and the fowl for the barn-door; the skylark for mid-heaven, and the nightingale for dewy eve."

Having thus introduced Mr. Ruegg, we must leave such of our readers as have a fancy for accompanying him through the Marsh to get the book for themselves,—only assuring them that their companion has a voice "adapted to the locality."

The Mathematical Analysis of Logic; being an Essay towards a Calculus of Deductive Reasoning. By George Boole. Cambridge, Macmillan.

THE mathematicians seem to be doing what they can to annex the formal part of logic. On the very day in which Mr. De Morgan's work was published in London, the one at the head of our article appeared at Cambridge. Nor need the metaphysicians (or philosophers, as they delight to call themselves) take any alarm: on the contrary, they ought to know, and we have no doubt do know, that every approach to system which, from whatever point of view it may be arrived at, is made in the treatment of the forms of thought, is an addition to their chances of ultimately obtaining agreement on matters of a yet more difficult character.

Mr. Boole is well known in the mathematical world by his original contributions to the higher parts of analysis:—and this little tract will add to his reputation. Its peculiarities would require much detail of explanation: and we must content ourselves with giving such a mere glimpse of them as will, we hope, though only a glimpse, lead mathematicians to the consideration of the work itself.

Mr. Boole and Mr. De Morgan have two different objects. The former desires to bring ordinary reflection on the proposition and the syllogism into a form which will be aided by symbolic notation: the latter attempts to dispense with such reflection, except in the establishment of processes, and then to use these processes as mechanical aids to the develop-

ment of results. Not that we are to interpret Mr. Boole as intending to advocate the substitution of mechanical work for mental inference. His tract is the assertion that it can be done, and the demonstration of a mode of doing it. He leaves us to interpret him as desiring that his system should take its place—but not the place of anything else.

Laying down an algebraical mode of expressing those agreements or differences which logicians call propositions, Mr. Boole also deduces rules for treating the equations by which such expression is signified. A person who can think a little on numbers might puzzle out the solution of a common algebraical equation; but the student of that science has direct modes of proceeding to the result. So it is with Mr. Boole's logical—or, as he calls them, *elective*—equations. For example, starting from the equation—

$$(1-x)zy=0$$

which, under the definitions, is made to mean "everything that is both Y and Z is X," we arrive, by mere process, by something precisely resembling in character the solution of an equation, at

$$y=v(1-x)(1-z)+v'x(1-z)+v''xz$$

which, in the same language, means that every Y is either both not-X and not-Z, or X and not-Z, or both X and Z—alternatives which independent thought will show to be all the first equation leaves possible. We have chosen one of the simplest cases, purposely; but we might easily propose one as to which there are few who would like either to affirm or deny the completeness of the conclusion from unassisted reasoning. We have confined ourselves, too, to Mr. Boole's peculiar system,—without notice of his incidental remarks on various points of ordinary logic.

In the first part of the tract, the ordinary syllogism is treated by simple, and comparatively synthetical, processes; but, in the latter part, general methods of solving elective equations are deduced,—and, mathematically speaking, with that simplicity which always marks the master of his craft.

Adventures in Mexico and the Rocky Mountains.

By G. F. Ruxton, Esq. Murray.

THIS volume, as a narrative of adventure, is one of the most amusing of the series forming the 'Home and Colonial Library.' Mr. Ruxton belongs to the fraternity of dashing travellers whose touches fall on the paper oftentimes at random, but never without that bold and clear mark which bespeaks strength and animal spirits and powers of observation in a healthy state.—To make our words good, we will offer a scrap showing us Funchal, its sights and merchandise, picked up on "the voyage out."

"Funchal in no degree differs from any sea or river side town in Portugal. The Funchalese are Portuguese in form and feature; the women, if possible, more ordinary, and the beggars more importunate and persevering. The beach is covered with plank sleds, to which are yoked most comical little oxen no larger than donkeys. In these sleds the hogheads of wine are conveyed to the boats, as they are better adapted to the rough shingle than wheeled conveyances. To a stranger, the trade of the town appears to be monopolized by vendors of straw hats and canary-birds. These articles of merchandise are thrust into one's face at every step. *Sombreros* are pounded upon your head; showers of canaries and goldfinches, with strings attached to their legs, are fired like rockets into your face; and the stunning roar of the salesmen deafen the ear. Ascending the precipitous *ruas*, we soon reached the suburbs, our guides holding on by the tails of the horses to facilitate their ascent. Still mounting, we pass where vines are trellised over the road; sweet-smelling geraniums, heliotrope, and fuchsias over-

hang the garden-walls on each side; whilst in the beautiful little gardens which everywhere meet the eye, the graceful banana, the orange-tree and waiving maize, the tropical aloe and homely oak, form the most pleasing contrasts and enchant the sight."

Touching at Barbadoes, Mr. Ruxton found nothing striking "but the sun, which is a perpetual furnace, and the pepper-pot,"—also the historical Miss Betsy Austin—the admired of many a midshipman and traveller in her better days—who, now, has grown sadly out of shape, and alas, is always "in her cups." The Havana ladies struck him by the simple coquetry of their toilette—a white dress with one rose in their hair—and by their murderous black eyes, which he found more beautiful than the "stars" or the "lamps" (to be poetical and new once in a season) of the girls of Cadiz. The first view of Vera Cruz was less engaging:—

"From the sea the coast on each side the town presents a dismal view of sandhills, which appear almost to swallow up the walls. The town, however, sparkling in the sun, with its white houses and numerous church-spires, has rather a picturesque appearance; but every object, whether on sea or land, glows unnaturally in the lurid atmosphere. It is painful to look into the sea, where shoals of bright-coloured fish are swimming; and equally painful to turn the eyes to the shore, where the sun, refracted by the sand, actually scorches the sight, as well as pains it by the quivering glare which ever attends refracted light."

We have had the ride to Jalapa described before. It seems at best a dismal pilgrimage,—especially to such soft-sitting personages as love "their ease in their inn." Let us take a glimpse at a first-class establishment at El Plan del Rio.—

"Round the corral, or yard, where were mangers for horses and mules, were several filthy dirty rooms, without windows or furniture. These were the guests' chambers. Mine host and his family had separate accommodations for themselves of course; and into this part of the mansion Castillo managed to introduce himself and me, and to procure some supper. The *chambermaid*—who, unlocking the door of the room apportioned to us, told us to beware of the *mala gente* (the bad people) who were about—was a dried-up old man, with a long grizzled beard and matted hair, which fell, guiltless of comb or brush, on his shoulders. He was perfectly horrified at our uncomplimentary remarks concerning the cleanliness of the apartment, about the floor of which troops of fleas were carolling, while fat odoriferous bugs were sticking in patches to the walls. My request for some water for the purpose of washing almost knocked him down with the heinousness of the demand; but when he had brought a little earthenware saucer, holding about a tablespoonful, and I asked for a towel, he stared at me open-mouthed without answering, and then burst out into an immoderate fit of laughter. 'Ay que hombre, Ave Maria Purissima, que loco es este!'—Oh, what a man, what a madman is this! 'Servilleta, pañuela, toalla, que demonio quiere?'—towel, napkin, handkerchief—what the devil does he want?—repeating the different terms I used to explain that I wanted a towel."

Mr. Ruxton learned to look back to these accommodations, he tells us, as to the luxuries of the Clarendon or Mivart's,—so much worse was he subsequently compelled to fare. The distance from Jalapa to Mexico was travelled over by diligence—an adventure, we are told, in which people may as well book themselves for being robbed, so perpetually does that consummation occur. Mr. Ruxton, however, took courage, "kept his powder dry," made a huge parade of defensive weapons, and being inspected at Puebla by the "robber spy" (who always waits in the coach-office yards) and pronounced a dangerous customer, was permitted to reach his journey's end without being bidden "to get out and deliver."

We will pass the chapters on Mexico; since we went the round of its sights with Madame

Calderon de la Barca [*Ath.* No. 796, 797, &c.],—whom, in his off-hand way, Mr. Ruxton warrants as "a lively painter." The interest of the book begins with the journey into New Mexico; the first five hundred miles of which—to Durango—were travelled in company with a young Spaniard on his way to the mines of Guadalupe y Calvo. Some of the incidents are primitive enough. At Queretaro, for instance,—

"As we entered the town by the garita, in a *desague*, or small canal, which ran by the side of and in the very street, were a bevy of women and girls 'in the garb of Eve,' and in open day, tumbling and splashing in the water, enjoying themselves like ducks in a puddle. They were in no degree disconcerted by the gaze of the passengers who walked at the edge of the canal, but laughed and joked in perfect innocence, and unconsciousness of perpetrating an impropriety. The passers-by appeared to take it as a matter of course, but we strangers, struck with the singularity of the scene, involuntarily reined in our horses at the edge of the water and allowed them to drink, during which we were attacked by the swarthy maids with laughing and splashing, and shouts of 'Ay que sin verguenzas!'—what shameless rogues! 'Echa-les, muchachas!'—at them, girls; splash the rascals!—and into our faces came showers of water, until, drenched to the skin, we were glad to beat a retreat. We found the town full of troops *en route* to San Luis Potosi, and had great difficulty in finding a corral for our animals: ourselves we were fain to stow away in a loft above the corral, where, amongst soldiers and arrieros, we passed a flea and bug ridden night. There was nothing eatable in the house, and we sallied out to the stall of a tortillero in the market-place, where we took a standing supper of frijoles and chile as usual. On presenting a silver dollar in payment, I received eight cakes of soap in change—current coin of Queretaro."

Can it be on a principle analogous to that of our own statutes against "clipping and coining" that the integrity of the cake of soap is so religiously respected throughout these wild and hot districts?—Somewhere about Zacatecas a new excitement presented itself. "Los Indios" became a topic; and tales of their savage outrages began to mix themselves up with simple robber stories. In a state of matters like this "a good sword" naturally becomes an object of as much respect as Excalibur itself. This Mr. Ruxton found; being tempted to sale and barter in a fashion more wild than winning.—

"On the road between Zacatecas and Fresnillo, as I was jogging gently on, a Mexican mounted on a handsome horse dashed up and reined in suddenly, doffing his sombrero and saluting me with a '*Buenos dias, caballero*.' He had ridden from Zacatecas for the purpose of trading with me for my sword, which he said he had heard of in that town as being something *muy fino*. Riding up to my left side, and saying, '*Con su licencia, caballero*,' by your leave, my lord—he drew the sword from its scabbard, and flourished it over his head, executed a neat demi-volt to one side, and performed some most complicated manoeuvres. At first I thought it not unlikely that my friend might take it into his head to make off with the sword, as his fresh and powerful animal could easily have distanced my poor tired steed, so I just slipped the cover from the lock of my carbine, to be ready in case of need. But the Mexican, after concluding his exercise, and having tried the temper of the blade on a nepalo, rode up and returned the sword to its scabbard with a low bow, offering me at the same time his horse in exchange for it, and when that was of no avail, another and another; horses, he assured me, '*de la mejor sangre*'—of the best blood of the country, and of great speed and strength."

Durango "may be considered the Ultima Thule of the civilized portion of Mexico." Further than this place Mr. Ruxton found it very difficult to procure squire or safeguard; but Chihuahua was his next point—to be reached somehow or other. Being determined to proceed, he was fain to put up with a known ruffian

for his Panza; and, thus accompanied, started into the wilderness. The following agreeable little passage occurred on the second day.—

"In the morning I was riding slowly ahead of my cavallada, passing at the time through a lonely mesquite-grove, when the sudden report of fire-arms, and the whistling of a bullet passed my head at rather unpleasantly close quarters, caused me to turn sharply round, when I saw my amiable mozo with a pistol in his hand, some fifteen yards behind me, looking very guilty and foolish. To whip a pistol out of my holsters and ride up to him was the work of an instant; and I was on the point of blowing out his brains, when his terrified and absurdly guilty-looking face turned my ire into an immoderate fit of laughter. 'Amigo,' I said to him, 'do you call this being skilled in the use of arms, to miss my head at fifteen yards?' 'Ah, caballero!' in the name of all the saints I did not fire at you, but at a duck which was flying over the road. *No lo cree su merced*—your worship cannot believe I would do such a thing.' Now it so happened, that the pistols, which I had given him to carry, were secured in a pair of holsters tightly buckled and strapped round his waist. It was a difficult matter to unbuckle them at any time; and as to his having had time to get one out to fire at a duck flying over the road, it was impossible, even if such an idea had occurred to him. I was certain that the duck was a fable, invented when he had missed me, and, in order to save my ammunition, and my head from another sportsmanlike display, I halted and took from him everything in the shape of offensive weapon, not excepting his knife; and wound up a sermon, which I deemed it necessary to give him, by administering a couple of dozen, well laid on with the buckle-end of my surcingle, at the same time giving him to understand, that if, hereafter, I had reason to suspect that he had even dreamed of another attempt upon my life, I would pistol him without a moment's hesitation.

We must make room for another, yet longer, adventure.—

"The plains were still covered with mezquit, and a species of palm which grows to the height of five or six feet, a bunch of long narrow leaves issuing from the top of the stem, which is frequently as thick as a man's body. From a distance it is exactly like an Indian with a head-dress of feathers, and Angel was continually calling my attention to these vegetable savages. Between the plains an elevated ridge presents itself, generally a spur from the sierras which run parallel to them on the eastern and western flanks, and this formation is everywhere the same. Where the ground is covered with mezquit thickets or chaparrals, a high but coarse grass is found; but on the bluffs is an excellent species, known in Mexico as gramma, and on the prairies as a variety of the buffalo-grass, on which cattle and horses thrive and fatten equally as well as on grain. As I was riding close to a bunch of mezquit the whizz of a rattlesnake's tail caused my horse to spring on one side and tremble with affright. I dismounted, and drawing the wiping-skin from my rifle, approached the reptile to kill it. The snake, as thick as my wrist, and about three feet long, was curled up, with its flat vicious-looking head and neck erected, and its tail rattling violently. A blow on the head soon destroyed it; but, as I was remounting, my rifle slipped out of my hand, and crack went the stock. A thong of buckskin, however, soon made it as secure as ever. After travelling about twenty-five miles I selected a camping-ground, and, unloading the mules, made a kind of breastwork of the packs and saddles, behind which to retreat in case of an Indian attack, which was more than probable, as we had discovered plenty of recent signs in the plains. It was about sunset, when we had completed our little fort, and spreading a *petate* or mat, the animals were soon at their suppers of corn, which I had brought for the purpose. They had all their calabasses or ropes round their necks, and trailing on the ground, in order that they might be easily caught and tied when they had finished their corn; and, giving the mozo strict orders to this effect, I rolled myself in my blanket and was soon asleep, as I intended to be on the watch myself from midnight to prevent surprise. In about two or three hours I awoke, and, jumping up, found Angel asleep, and

that all the animals had disappeared. It was pitchy dark, and not a trace of them could be distinguished. After an hour's ineffectual search I returned to camp, and waited until daybreak, when it would be light enough to track the animals. This there was no difficulty in doing, and I at once found that, after hunting for some time for water, they had taken the track back to El Gallo, whither I had no doubt they had returned for water. It was certainly a great relief to me to find that they had not been taken by the Indians, which at first I thought was the case; but their course was perfectly plain where they had trodden down the high grass, wet with dew, in their search for water. Not finding it, they had returned at once, and in a direct course, to our yesterday's trail, and made off towards El Gallo, without stopping to eat, or even pick the tempting gramma on their way. The only fear now was, that a wandering party of Indians should fall in with them on the road, when they would not only seize the animals, but discover our present retreat by following their trail.

"When I returned to camp I immediately despatched Angel to El Gallo, ordering him to come back instantly, and without delaying a moment, when he had found the beasts, remaining myself to take charge of the camp and baggage. On examining a pair of saddle-bags which my kind hostess at El Gallo had filled with tortillas, quesos, &c., I found that Mr. Angel had, either during the night, or when I was hunting for the missing animals, discussed all its contents, not leaving as much as a crumb; and as the fresh morning air had given me a sharp appetite, I took my rifle and slung a double-barrel carbine on my back, placed a pair of pistols in my belt, and, thus armed, started off to the sierra to kill an antelope and broil a collop for breakfast. Whilst hunting I crossed the sierra, which was rocky and very precipitous, and from the top looked down into a neighbouring plain, where I fancied I could discern an arroyo with running water. Half suffocated at the time with thirst, I immediately descended, although the place was six or seven miles out in the plain, and thought of nothing but assuaging my thirst. I had nearly completed the descent when a band of antelope passed me, and stopped to feed in a little plateau near which ran a cañon or hollow, which would enable me to approach them within shot. Down the cañon I accordingly crept, carefully concealing myself in the long grass and bushes, and occasionally raising my head to judge the distance. In this manner I had approached, as I thought, to within rifle-shot, and, creeping between two rocks at the edge of the hollow, I raised my head to reconnoitre, and met a sight which caused me to drop it again behind the cover, like a turtle drawing into its shell. About two hundred yards from the cañon, and hardly twice that distance from the spot where I lay concealed, were riding quietly along, in Indian file, eleven Comanches, painted and armed for war. Each had a lance and bow and arrows, and the chief, who was in advance, had a rifle, in a gaily ornamented case of buckskin hanging at his side. They were naked to the waist, their buffalo robes being thrown off their shoulders and lying on their hips and across the saddle, which was a mere pad of buffalo-skin. They were making towards the cañon, which I imagined they would cross by a deer-path near where I stood. I certainly thought my time was come, but was undecided whether to fire upon them as soon as they were near enough, or trust to the chance of their passing me undiscovered. Although the odds were great, I certainly had the advantage, being in an excellent position, and having six shots in readiness, even if they charged, when they could only attack me one at a time. I took in at once the advantages of my position, and determined, if they showed an intention of crossing the cañon by the deer-path, to attack them, but not otherwise. As they approached, laughing and talking, I raised my rifle, and resting it in the fork of a bush which completely hid me, I covered the chief, his brawny breast actually shining (oily as it was) at the end of my sight. His life, and probably mine hung on a thread. Once he turned his horse, when he arrived at the deer-track which crossed the cañon, and, thinking that they were about to approach by that path, my finger even pressed the trigger; but an Indian behind him said a few words, and pointed along the plain, when he resumed his former course and passed on.

I certainly breathed more freely, although (such is human nature) no sooner had they turned off than I regretted not having fired. If an unnecessary, it would not have been a rash act, for in my position, and armed as I was, I was more than a match for the whole party. However, antelope and water went unscathed, and as soon as the Indians were out of sight I again crossed the sierra, and reached the camp about two hours after sunset, where, to my disappointment, the animals had not yet arrived, and no signs of their approach were visible on the plain. I determined, if they did not make their appearance by sundown, to return at once to El Gallo, as I suspected my mozo might commit some foul play, and perhaps abscond with the horses and mules. Sun went down, but no Angel; and darkness set in and found me, almost dead with thirst, on my way to El Gallo. It was with no little difficulty I could make my way, now stumbling over rocks, and now impaling myself on the sharp prickles of the palma or nopalo. Several times I was in the act of attacking one of the former, so ridiculously like feathered Indians did they appear in the dim starlight. However, all was hushed and dark—not even a skulking Comanche would risk his neck on such a night: now and then an owl would hoot over head, and the mournful and long-continued howl of the coyote swept across the plain, or a snake rattled as it heard my approaching footstep. When the clouds swept away, and allowed the stars to emit their feeble light, the palms waved in the night air, and raised their nodding heads against the sky, the cry of the coyote became louder, as it was now enabled to pursue its prey, cecuyos flitted amongst the grass like winged sparks of fire, and deer or antelope bounded across my path. The trail indeed was in many parts invisible, and I had to trust to points of rocks and ridges, and trees which I remembered to have passed the day before, to point out my course. Once, choked with thirst, and utterly exhausted—for I had been travelling since sunrise without food or water—I sank down on the damp ground and slept for a couple of hours, and when I awoke the stars were obscured by heavy clouds, and the darkness prevented me distinguishing an object even a few feet distant. I had lost my bearings, and was completely confused, not knowing which course to follow. Trusting to instinct, I took what I considered the proper direction, and shortly after, when it again became light enough to see, I regained the path, and pushed rapidly on; and at length the welcome lowing of cattle satisfied me that I was near the wells where I had stopped the previous day. I soon arrived at the spot, and, lowering the goatskin bucket, buried my head in the cold water, and drank a delicious draught.

"At about three in the morning, just as the first dawn was appearing, I knocked at the door of the rancho, and the first voice I heard was that of my mozo, asking lazily '¿Quien llama?'—who calls? Every one was soon up, and, congratulating me upon being still alive; for when Angel had told them or the loss of the animals, and that I was remaining alone, they gave me up for lost, as the spot where we had encamped was a notorious stopping-place of the Indians when *en route* for the haciendas. I was so fortunate as to find all the animals safe; they were quietly feeding near the cattle-wells when the mozo arrived there. He made some lame excuse for not returning, but I have no doubt his intention had been to make off with them, which, if I had not suspected something of the sort and followed him, he would probably have effected. At daylight I mounted a mule bare-backed, and Angel another; and leading the remainder, we rode back to the camp, whence we immediately started for Mapimi. As a punishment for his carelessness and meditated treachery, I obliged the mozo to ride bare-backed the whole distance of nearly sixty miles, and at a round trot. This feat of equitation, which on the straight and razor-like back of an ill-conditioned mule is anything but an easy or comfortable process, elicited from Angel, during his ride, a series of the most pathetic laments on his miserable fate in serving so merciless a master, accompanied by supplications to be allowed to mount the horse which carried his saddle and ran loose. But I was obdurate. He was the undoubted cause, by not having watched the animals, as was his duty, of the delay and loss of time I had suffered, and therefore, as a warning, and as a

matter of justice, I administered this salutary dose of 'Lynch law,' which I have no doubt he remembers to the present moment. About midday we reached the hacienda de la Cadena, first passing a vidette stationed on a neighbouring hill, on the lookout for the Indians. The hacienda itself was closed, and men were ready on the azoteas with guns and bows and arrows, when the approach of strangers was announced by signal from the ranchero on the hill. Just outside the gates were erected several crosses, with their little piles of stones, on which were roughly-cut inscriptions; they were all to the memory of those who had been killed on the spot by Indians. We stayed at La Cadena merely to water our beasts, the people shouting from the housetop, and asking if we were mad, to travel alone. Angel, to whom I had again intrusted a carbine, answered by striking his hand on the butt of his piece, and vociferating, 'Miren ustedes: somos valientes, que importan los camajos Comanches. Que vengan, y yo los mataré.'—Look here: we are brave men, and don't care a straw for the rascally Comanches. Only let them come, and I will kill them myself. And the muchachos waved their rebosos, and saluted the 'valiente,' shouting, 'Adios, buen mozo! mate a los barbaros.'—God keep you, brave lad! kill the savages. At which Angel waved his gun, in a state of great excitement and present valour, which cooled amazingly when we were out of sight of the hacienda and amongst the dreary chaparrals. It was ten at night when we reached Mapimi; and, losing the track, we got bewildered in the darkness, and wandered into a marsh outside the town, the lights of which were apparently quite close at hand: but all our shouting and cries for assistance and a guide were in vain, and caused the inhabitants to barricade their doors, as they thought the Indians were upon them; which panic was probably increased, when at last, guessing at the cause, and almost losing my temper, I gave a succession of most correct war-whoops as I floundered through the mud, and fired a volley at the same moment. When, therefore, I at length extricated myself and entered the town, not a living soul was visible, and the lights all extinguished; so, groping my way to the plaza, at one side of which trickled a little stream, I unpacked my mules and encamped, sending the mozo with a costal for a supply of corn for the animals, with which he presently returned, reporting at the same time that the people were half dead with terror. The mules and horses properly cared for, I rolled myself in my blanket in the middle of the street, and went supperless to sleep, after a ride of sixty-five miles."

No traveller has presented himself at the Christmas fireside, we dare avouch, with a tale better worth hearing than this. Of course, Mr. Ruxton reached Chihuahua and something beyond, or he would not be here for our entertainment. While reading such books as this, we are struck by the answer which they give to those who are for ever complaining of the enervating influences of civilization,—as if comfort, intelligence and self-command were to drive Manhood out of the world. What do they who believe that no strength would be forthcoming in this silken age, were it wanted, make of a Lady Sale, with that pithy entry in her diary, "*Earthquakes as usual*"?—what of a Rajah Brooke?—what, in his less important orbit, of such an autumn tourist as Mr. Ruxton? The fierce old times of "bow and spear"—the days when geographical discovery took such strange forms and colours from Superstition—did not yield a better heroine and hero than the two former have proved themselves. While the eldest travellers in regard of mystery, wonder and hair-breadth 'scapes, could not beat our recent Arctic voyagers, our pilgrims to Petra, our D'Abbadies,—and such more careless adventurers as the one whom we here leave asleep in the middle of the street at Mapimi.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

The Convent: a Narrative, founded on Fact. By R. McCrindell.—"List, oh list to the Convent Bells!"—the opening words of this tale—sound like

an appeal to the pit, boxes and gallery of an operatic theatre, or the title of the sweet new ballad with the neat new lithograph, rather than a protest by an "English Governess" against free will immured by papistical bigotry. Our daughters, at least, shall not be taught the right of private judgment by any such jingle. Yet the Fugglestonian burden cited is possibly the least offensive part of the book. The authoress attacks *The Convent* as though she would scratch it down by her scissor-points, and plough up its foundations past human reparation by aid of her crochet-needle:—takes for granted that every romantic enormity of by-gone times exists there in all its pristine monstrosity; and announces that "rest in the Church" is only to be come at by the breaking of idols, the slapping in the face of confessors, and the tearing of veils. For her doctrine we will hand her over to the "justice according to the best authorities" of the Authoress of "From Oxford to Rome." With regard to her facts, we beg leave to cite a passage from one as little given to the adoration of Priestcraft as herself,—we mean Signor Mariotti; who in his new volume on Italy, has something to say about the old subject:—

"The convent in our days—hear it, ye gallant and compassionate champions, whose chivalrous feelings are so deeply affected as you roam around the inclosure of an Ursuline monastery,*—has become the refuge of shrivelled old women, and of those ill-favoured creatures who are wedded to heaven in sheer despair of more substantial nuptials. * * All the power of a first-rate nobleman could not in feudal times (witness Manzoni) immure a reluctant girl in the cloisters without having recourse to the basest shifts of domestic policy; but in our days, after the abolition of the rights of primogeniture and the consequent dismemberment of the oldest families, parents have no longer an object, even if they had the power, to sacrifice their offspring, either by violence or deceit." Would that we had for the last time pointed out the wrong done to Christianity and good sense by books of this class!

A Walk round Mont Blanc. By the Rev. Francis Trench.—To the unstrung frame and the jaded brain "sweet are the uses" of a walk in Switzerland, or the Tyrol, or the Rhineland, or among the delicious Italian lakes—blessed the escape from postman's knock and daily paper,—to say nothing of the "dear five hundred friends" whose pleasures and cares we carry, or break down under! But walking and talking are two distinct occupations;—and Mr. Trench has not a single new word to say with regard to his continental ramble. "As old as the hills" is every descriptive paragraph and moral inference. We turned to his book with a hundred pleasant associations:—we turn away from it in a humour to apply to the kingdom of intellectual pilgrimage two lines by Dr. Watts, as a fit quotation when our talk is of threadbare matters,—

Where'er I take my walks abroad
How many poor I see!

Married and Single; or, Marriage and Celibacy contrasted. By T. S. Arthur.—"The Bachelor of the Albany" gave us the comedy and the cure of lonely Selfishness. Here is the morality thereof: a pleasant preaching-up of Matrimony—an assurance that any "olive branches," even though their fruits be poor, are better round the parent tree than none at all. "Go, marry!" cries Mr. Arthur. We would turn him over to Miss Martineau's "Ella of Garveloch," for his answer:—had we not some idea that all the world is agreed in the importance of the lesson intended, though the manner of wording the same varies with every preaching man or teaching maid. That to avoid duties, responsibilities, sympathies, because of the cares and disappointments "ravelled up" with them, is a sore and destructive mistake—is Life's great truth. Let us, however, point out that there have been such things as exaction and selfishness in paternal affection—as generosity and self-sacrifice in the single and the unwedded. If this be capable of proof (and whenever we shall have nothing better to do we will be ready to prove it by apologue, homily, and apostrophe), the real doctrine would seem to be,—"*Marry if you can—if you can't, there's no need for you to make a stone of yourself.*"

De Warrenne, the Medical Practitioner. By the Author of "Constance D'Oyley." 3 vols.—This is a pretty novel—no epithet that fits better occurring to us.

Its characters are not exactly probable,—its incidents not remarkably practicable; but both are managed with a certain graceful, easy, cheerful good humour which enticed us along in a manner truly welcome at a juncture when the Dismal so largely enters into fiction. There is as little of medicine in the tale as there is of mesmerism. Beyond the fact that Mr. De Warrenne, an utterly unimportant character, is in the profession, we have not a hint of "pill, bolus, or potion." The book, however, contains a handsome exhibition of love symptoms in sundry of the characters: also the case of a dæmel organically afflicted with coquetry,—which, we are sorry to say, ends fatally. Further, it has a hero who tumbles, by true romantic good-luck, into a splendid fortune,—an eccentric gentleman who fascinates by his eccentricity, from whom, somehow or other, we cannot keep our eyes or our interest,—and a heroine of the humour of Shakespeare's Beatrice, whose saucy good spirits and affectionate warm heart never fail her, even when she is most tempted to be sentimental and selfish. What all these personages do we shall by no means reveal at present:—enough to state that they talk very pleasantly, in places,—possibly, too smartly, but never unnaturally. It is only a week or two since we pointed out the monstrosities of the manufacture now-a-days foisted on the public as dialogue,—how a compound of every conceivable stage clap-trap is too often substituted for the language of real emotion,—how point-blank revelations of what A thinks and B (wicked B!) is planning, and C has made up her mind to conceal are put forth in place of those delicate, indicatory fencings and unconscious confessions which masters of parlance have successfully used for the enlightenment of their readers. Now, inasmuch as, with one exception (in the person of the prosy and cruel father, Mr. Reynolds), the conversations in "De Warrenne" are like real conversations, the book deserves real praise. We might add, that it merits attentive study from many of those who will mount "the high horse of contempt" at being invited to take a lesson from any novelist whatever—past, present, or to come!

Eton Latin Grammar. By G. B. Wheeler.—The notes contain a good deal of curious information and conjectural theorizing, interesting perhaps to the speculative philologist, but unintelligible and comparatively useless to the tyro. We are glad to observe that the tense and case endings of verbs and nouns are distinctly separated from the stems or crude forms.

An Attempt to simplify English Grammar. By R. Sullivan.—A more than ordinary amount of useful information, derived from the best authors, is here comprised within a small compass. The principles of our language are set forth with great clearness and precision. In no other similar work is the derivation of words—especially those of English origin—so fully explained. It is much to be regretted that the author should have thought fit to perpetuate the absurd practice of giving erroneous English to be corrected.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

Adventures of a Medical Student, 3 vols. post 8vo. 31s. 6d. cl.
Alison's Europe, new ed. Vol. XIV. post 8vo. 6s. cl.
Barrett's (J. T.) Memorials of Aitchborough Church, imp. 8vo. 42s.
Bibb's Stan. Lib. Vol. XXX. "Memoirs of Duke of Marlborough," Vol. II.; Ditto, Vol. XXXI. "Autobiog. of Goethe," 3s. 6d. each.
Builder (The), Vol. V. 17s. 6d. cl.
Burrell's (Mrs.) Crochet Gem, square, 6d. awd.
Chalmers's (Dr. T.) Posthumous Works, Vol. II. 8vo. 10s. 6d. cl.
Cope's (Sir A.) Meditations on Twenty Select Poems, pt. 8vo. 7s. 6d. cl.
Cousin (The), or, Solitary Life, a Novel, 3 vols. post 8vo. 31s. 6d. cl.
Crosby's Builder's Price Book, corrected to 1848, 8vo. 4s. awd.
Cunningham's (Rev. J.) Is Christianity from God? 2nd ed. 18mo. 3s. cl.
Davidson's Congregational Lecture, 18th Series, 8vo. 6s. cl.
De Fiva's French Grammar, 8th ed. 12mo. 3s. 6d. bd.
De Fiva's French Conversations, 3rd ed. 18mo. 3s. 6d. bd.
Dodd's (C. R.) Parliamentary Companion for 1848, roy. 32mo. 4s. 6d.
Helen Fleetwood, by Charlotte Elizabeth, 2nd ed. 8vo. 6s. cl.
Ecclesiastical Choir Book (The), royal 4to. 21s. cl.
Evelyn's (J.) Life of Mrs. Godolphin, 1842 ed. 8vo. 12s. cl.
Foster's (Capt.) Five Years in China, 1842 to 1847, 8vo. plates, 12s. cl.
Graham (Dr. T. J.) On Disorders of the Mind and Nerves, 8vo. 3s. 6d.
Halton's (Rev. T.) Exposition of the Church Catechism, 8s. 6d. cl.
Helen Fleetwood, by Charlotte Elizabeth, 2nd ed. 8vo. 6s. cl.
Henderson's (E.) Treatise on Astronomy, 3rd ed. 12mo. 4s. cl.
Herbert's (G.) Remains, new ed. 8vo. 3s. cl.
Hogson's (W.) Auricular Confession, 8s. 3rd ed. 12mo. 1s. 6d. awd.
Hofane's (T. C.) British Angler's Manual, post 8vo. 12s. cl.
Jardine's Naturalist's Lib. Vol. XXXIV. People's Ed. 8vo. 4s. 6d.
Jardine's (Dr.) Wonders of Geology, 6th ed. post 8vo. 18s. cl.
Memoirs of Mdlle. de Montpensier, 3 vols. post 8vo. 31s. 6d. cl.
Nüggis's (T.) Switzerland in 1847, 2 vols. post 8vo. 21s. cl.
Penny (H.) On Large and Small Farms, with Notes, 12mo. 2s. cl.
Snowball's (J. C.) Elements of Trigonometry, 7th ed. 8vo. 10s. 6d. bd.
Songs of the Holy Land, 8vo. 7s. 6d. bd.
Houghton's (J.) Spiritual Heroes, critical Library, 8vo. 9s. cl.
Tappin's (R.) Rosa and Gertrude, Farlow Library, Vol. XII. 1s.
War with the Saints, by Charlotte Elizabeth, 8vo. 6s. cl.
Year Book of Facts for 1848, portrait of Humboldt, 8s. 3s. cl.

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THE DEAD BIRD.

Rest—rest, perturbed spirit!—Sleeps in thee
At length the palpitation and the sighing!
A minute shows me the epitome
Of death and dying!

At breakfast I shall miss thee take thy part—
Down like a thought of light thy presence bringing—
Oft have I felt thee set the attuned heart
A—silent—singing!

I'll be no shunner of the birds. They'll be,
For thy good sake, my lost one! all the dearer;
But no particular pipe shall find in me
A lover-hearer!

The woods—the sunny hedgerows—the soft dells,
Where waters thrill low music to birds singing—
The upland, where the lark its sky-tale tells,
Soaring and singing—

The autumnal gardens where the linnet's linger—
The blackbird and the thrush—enamoured copse—
The sunset haunts of each "full-throated" singer,
"The fruit-tree tops!"—

These shall my bird-nests be!—though thou wert
born
Mid wires, not woods. The wild bird now engages!
The open song flung to the open morn,—
But no more cages!

Thou hast unwittingly mocked others' ends—
But these I with thy little bones will inter:—
In leaf-time thou hast loved me, and—like friends—
Left me in Winter!

J. H. R.

THE EARL OF LEICESTER IN THE NETHERLANDS.

The expedition of Elizabeth's favourite to the United Provinces, and its unfavourable issue, are facts too well known to require either investigation or comment; but it is still a matter of doubt in what spirit he was received by the Dutch, and if the failure of his undertaking is to be attributed solely to his own incapacity or if the unwillingness of the Dutch to grant him the necessary co-operation must be taken into consideration. Be that as it may, we believe the Dutch to have been sincere in the expression of that high opinion as to his talents and power which they addressed to himself and his mighty mistress shortly before he arrived in the Netherlands:—and some MS. letters lately discovered in the Archives of Arnheim, by M. Is. A. Nyhoff, the well-known author of many valuable works on the history of the Netherlands, are strikingly illustrative of the great expectations which they had formed of him,—at the same time that they testify to the almost ludicrous submission of the States-General to the will of the English queen. Though the crown so humbly offered by the Provinces had been so haughtily refused by Elizabeth, she was not unwilling to grant them the requisite assistance against Spain;—and it is amusing to observe how very successfully, by means of her ambassador Davison, she induced the States-General to solicit her aid on the very conditions which she was most willing to grant. We trust, therefore, that some translations and extracts from the letters about to be published by M. Nyhoff will not prove unacceptable; and we will accompany them by such illustration or comment as may seem necessary. To the kindness of M. Nyhoff we are indebted for the opportunity of copying and translating the MSS.—which will be offered to the Dutch public in their original form in one of the ensuing volumes of his *'Bydragen voor Nederlandsche Geschiedenis en Oudheidkunde.'*

The first letter which we notice is the official copy of a French one sent by the States-General to the Queen of England, bearing date "The Hague, Nov. 5, 1585." Its chief contents apply to the ratification of the conditions on which the Queen had offered to assist them in carrying on the war, by maintaining a body of five thousand foot and one thousand horse in the Netherlands, besides garrisoning several towns and fortresses therein specified, at her own expense,—for which she is to be reimbursed at the conclusion of the war, whilst the town of Flushing and the Brielle and the Castle of Rammekeens are to remain in her hands as pledges offered by the States "pour le remboursement de ses deniers." It then goes on to state how much they feel obliged by her Majesty's promise of sending some high dignitary to assist in the government of

the States,—in return for which favour they promise eternal fidelity and obedience. As an additional bounty, they entreat the Queen to send over the nobleman whom she may be pleased to appoint as soon as possible; and conclude by begging "that it may be the Earl of Leicester, who would be most agreeable to the people of these countries, as well as 'les Srs. Philippe de Sidney et Thomas Cecyll' filz aîné de Mons. le grand trésorier," if her Majesty would please to commission them respectively as governors and commanders of the garrisons in the towns of Brielle and Flushing and the Castle of Rammekeens, which they most earnestly supplicate her Majesty to do."

There is perhaps nothing very remarkable in this letter; but it serves to display fully the success with which "le Sr. Davison," the Queen's ambassador, had led the States to anticipate the desires of their powerful ally. We do not give more lengthy extracts, as the greater part of its contents are similar to those of the second letter,—which is, however, more interesting. It is addressed by the States-General to Leicester himself,—of the same date as the above; and proves that the States had been led to believe themselves partly indebted for their success in their negotiations with the English court to his influence, and that they expected wonders from his exertions. We give as faithful and literal a translation of it as possible.

"My Lord,—Our deputies now returned from England have made us a full and ample report of the honours and favours which your Excellency has conferred on them, as well as of your kind exertions in inducing and disposing her Majesty to conclude the treaty of alliance and assistance which it has pleased her Majesty to grant us during the continuance of the war, according to the articles which have been confirmed and signed; and in particular they have stated to us the favourable disposition in which, on their departure, they left your Excellency with respect to the preservation and service of these countries: all of which has greatly comforted and cheered us and rendered us infinitely grateful to your Excellency. It being likewise inferred by the above-mentioned treaty that her Majesty is to send over some person of high quality and authority to assist us in the government and direction of the affairs of these countries, we entreat your Excellency most affectionately, if her Majesty should please to confer the benefit and favour on us of appointing your Excellency, which we have most earnestly supplicated and entreated her to do, and which we firmly hope will be the case, not to deprive us of the greatest benefit and advantage we have conceived and formed from the above treaty, but that you will accept the office, for which we shall ever remain truly thankful as in duty bound; the more so as the name of your Excellency is most agreeable to the people here, who long and desire to see you immediately, and promise themselves by your means a speedy and happy conclusion of this unfortunate, and almost interminable war, to which may the Almighty speed you for the preservation of his church and to the greater lustre of the rare and heroic virtues of your Excellency, whose hands we most affectionately kiss, supplicating our heavenly Father, my Lord, to have your Excellency in his holy keeping.

The Hague, Holland, October 5, 1585.

Of your Excellency the most Faithful Servants,
the States-General of the United Provinces
of the Netherlands. By order of the States,
(Signed) C. AERSSENS."

A Monseigneur,

Monseigneur le Comte de Leycester.

We can fancy with what haughty exultation the vain favourite perused this submissive address;—and we may consider it as explaining the overbearing and presumptuous line of conduct which he adopted towards the States on his arrival. His vanity was sure to be increased, and his disregard of his allies heightened, on comparing the splendour of his own train, and the luxuries to which he had been accustomed in England, with the necessitous state and simple forms of the Dutch representatives. Besides this, the tardy and dilatory way in which the Dutch had carried on the negotiation, although their dearest interests were at stake, could

* This gentleman is in other state papers the "Heer van Sicilli" and his companion the "Heer van Sedney."

have given him but little faith in their activity and good will; whilst their slowness had aroused the displeasure of Elizabeth herself,—as we shall perceive on examining the contents of the two following letters. They are written by the plenipotentiaries of the States-General at the English court,—and are most curious and characteristic specimens of the times and people. They are rather of confidential than official import; and addressed to the "noble, most learned, wise, and provident Lords, the States-General of the United Provinces of the Netherlands." The language in which they are written is most barbarous Dutch,—largely interspersed with crippled French words and Latin constructions; not at all unlike the German Kanzlei-Style of that period,—in which it appears the great art was to express the fewest possible ideas in the greatest possible number of words.—It is impossible to do justice to such writings in a translation; and we must, therefore, confine ourselves to such extracts and annotations as present most interest or amusement.

In the first epistle, dated London, October 24th, 1585, the Ambassadors of the States begin by complaining of the dilatoriness of the States-General in sending them the requisite instructions, and the delay thus occasioned in the conduct of the negotiations. It seems, however, that some time must necessarily elapse before the States-General could forward the necessary directions to their emissaries, as before deciding on any important measure they had to consult the Provincial States, and await their decision,—which they were not always prompt in forming or in transmitting. The gentlemen in London aver, with great naïveté, that they are in the utmost perplexity and distress,—not knowing what to say or do; and beg an immediate answer from the Hague, so that "they may be fully prepared against meeting her Majesty and other gentlemen of the court."—"huere Ma' ende andere heren van den hore"—and enabled to answer all sorts of questions." And to avoid all further delay, these able statesmen—Jacob Valcke and Paulus Buys were of the number—further advise the States that they have hired a ship for two hundred guilders to go and return within eight or ten days or no pay, to carry their despatches and bring back an answer from the States; of which measure they had taken care to have her Majesty informed, in order that she might take patience for that space of time. This expense and trouble, the thrifty emissaries continue, might have been saved if the States had taken care to transmit their instructions in time; and they earnestly request that no further delay may arise,—as the consequences would be most disastrous. The Earl of Leicester having, in fact, received his commission from her Majesty, was ready and willing to set out,—but was kept back by the negligence of the States, who had not expressed their wishes in that respect, and without whose instructions the ambassadors did not feel authorized to press him. Thus, they have it not in their power to satisfy her Majesty: who, should they not receive an answer from the Hague within the period they had named, they cannot conceal from the States will "grant them permission to return home"—"sijnt verleen omme te mogen vertrecken"—"leaving matters as they now stand." They conclude their letter by throwing the blame of whatever fatal consequences may occur from further delay on the States,—and with the assurance that they have exerted themselves to the utmost for the welfare of the Provinces.

The second letter from the same ambassadors to the States-General is dated November 1st, 1585, N.S.; and opens with acknowledging the receipt of the letters to the Queen and the Earl of Leicester, of which we have already made mention. What follows is particularly amusing, as illustrative of that awe with which Elizabeth had personally inspired her allies, and describing an interview granted to the Dutch ambassadors by the Queen for the delivery of the above-mentioned letters. We shall offer the most entertaining passages in as accurate a translation as the style will allow. "We were highly gratified," they say, "by the receipt of your missives; which we immediately communicated to the 'Heer van Walsingham' at court, but it did not suit her Majesty's convenience to grant us an audience until yesterday: when we presented your missives with some further explanations which were rendered ne-

cessary by your despatches, and which we considered the circumstances to require in particular. We excused, as well as we possibly could, the delay that had arisen, and urged the speedy departure of her Majesty's commissaries,—for which it appears her Majesty had been prepared the day before by Mr. Davison. Her Majesty having heard us, and perused your letter, answered us very gravely and with evident displeasure, and very explicitly stated her great discontent at your tardiness, as her Majesty had granted as many troops as we had demanded, and had, besides, promised to send over some gentlemen of high quality to assist us, and by thus doing the treaty had been already concluded, so that you had no cause for further *deliberation* on your part, but ought to have acted immediately, as the interests of your country required the greatest haste, without raising further obstacles,—the rather as we were so greatly in need of her Majesty's assistance which she had kindly granted, and that her Majesty, on weighing this and other matters in her mind, considered herself not to have been treated with the respect due to so mighty a princess as herself, which might be a reason for diminishing her interest in our welfare unless her Majesty and her servants were treated in future with the greatest consideration, particularly as we seemed almost unworthy of her benefits, or at any rate there were some of us who had not acted with sincerity. Nevertheless, she had been induced by her great affection and interest in our safety to order the Earl of Leicester to take upon himself the conduct of affairs in the Netherlands, he being a nobleman of the greatest distinction, and whom her Majesty loved as a brother (*denwelcken haere Ma^t was beninnende als heur eygen broeder*); that he was using the greatest diligence in his preparations and exposing himself for their sakes to the evil practices of their enemies, and that for these reasons her Majesty should be greatly grieved if he were not held in proper respect and maintained in fitting dignity; that he and others with him were going over, not on their own business, or to enrich themselves, as if they had not the means of living in magnificence and luxury at home, but that they only acted from motives of interest in our welfare; that this was not only applicable to them, but likewise to all other subjects of her Majesty who were to be sent over honoured by her love and esteem, besides a large body of troops, which, with those who were to accompany his Excellency, would complete the number of nearly ten thousand of the English nation, who would not only be of great assistance to us, but would likewise deprive her own kingdom of many brave defenders, (whilst she was threatened on several sides by her enemies with a war). That her Majesty was seeking neither authority nor anything else that could be prejudicial to the liberties of our countries; but only desired to relieve us in our distress in this most calamitous war, and to leave us to the free enjoyment of our religion and rights. And of these and many other matters, which we shall communicate on our return, her Majesty desired us to make a full and ample report to you; with the assurance of her own favourable inclinations to our advantage if we did not prove unworthy of her protection, as we have already stated. We excused ourselves as well as possible;—giving hopes that on due consideration of what we had to report, you would not fail to satisfy her Majesty."

Having thus described their audience at length, the emissaries require that everything may be held ready in Holland to receive the Earl of Leicester in a becoming manner. He may be expected, they say, about the 15th of the month; and deputations of the proper authorities ought, they add, to be ready to meet him on that day at Middelburg, provided with full powers for advising and acting with his Excellency, "without being obliged to make reports to the Hague, and await answers from thence, whereby favourable opportunities for action were frequently lost, and other obstacles raised which often caused irreparable mischief; and this was likewise the opinion and the desire of her Majesty." In conclusion, they request that some men-of-war may be immediately sent over to convey them and the English officers in safety to the Dutch coast.

There is much that is worthy of remark in these two letters,—not as respecting facts hitherto unknown in their details, but as regards the line of conduct

pursued by Elizabeth towards the States, and the demeanour of the Dutch emissaries in England. If we smile at the simplicity and thriftiness of men who, whilst the dearest interests of their native country are at stake, do not consider it beneath their dignity or unworthy of their trouble to look to a couple of hundred guilders in the forwarding of an important despatch, and who seriously reproach the States for being the cause of so trifling an expenditure—we cannot refrain from being struck by the vein of sound good sense which runs through the whole of their tedious periods; nor can we refuse our esteem to men who, looking to the interests of the States in the most trifling matters, yet stood to the last in defence of all that is most dear and sacred to mankind, often with the sacrifice of their own personal fortunes and safety. There is, in our opinion, as much real greatness in this as there was of affectation and ill-placed display of power on the side of Elizabeth. We will not question her *sisterly affection* for Leicester,—so sily reported without comment or remark by the Dutch ambassadors; but we may doubt her sincerity when she declares her disinterested attachment to the States, and her wish to assist them solely for *their own sakes*,—remembering that had Philip proved victorious in the Netherlands, the establishment of the Catholic religion in a republic which was then the only bulwark of the Reformation would have dangerously increased the might of her enemies abroad and strengthened their influence at home. We must admire, too, the prudence of the Dutch,—who readily admitted the disinterestedness and magnanimity of an ally whose virtues they could only detract from at their own expense.

Extracts from the last letter—addressed to the Provincial States of Gelderland by the States-General, bearing date November 12th, 1585—will serve to demonstrate with how much good faith and sincerity the Dutch Provinces were inclined to perform to the very letter the stipulations which had been made by the English government; and exonerate them from the charge of any attempt to circumscribe the authority, or limit the means, of the English general.

"To the Chancellor, Council and Deputies of the Principality of Gelderland and the County of Zutphen, &c.

"Annexed we transmit copies of the missives addressed to us by our deputies in England, which came to hand on the 10th inst. From them you will learn that his Excellency the Earl of Leicester is preparing to set out for this country on the 15th inst., according to the articles of the treaty concluded with her Majesty; you will likewise be pleased to take note of the desire and will of her Majesty with respect to the manner in which his Excellency is to be treated in this country and of the conduct henceforward to be observed in public affairs, as well as of the request and advice of our deputies that the Provinces should send ambassadors to Zealand to await and welcome his Excellency there, and otherwise to act as you will find they are desired to do by the above-mentioned letters. We ourselves are entirely of opinion that the service of the States requires that his Excellency should be received with becoming honour, reverence and respect: we therefore invite you to send, as soon as possible, deputies in sufficient numbers, furnished with the requisite powers, and among them those who have before been sent for your Provinces to Zealand,—all of them authorized and charged to carry every article of the treaty concluded with her Majesty into execution and to see, on the part of the United Provinces, to the strict observance and accomplishment of every measure determined with regard to the government and subsidies, and further to resolve on everything his Excellency may please to propose concerning the matters mentioned in the treaty. We likewise require you to consider his Excellency, who has been sent over at the request of the Provinces, and who represents the person of her Majesty in these countries, to be invested with *supreme power and authority in all matters touching the war*, and to oblige the Provinces and their governors and magistrates to unlimited obedience in the performance and execution of whatever it may please his Excellency and the council by which he is to be assisted to order and command, so that due order be re-established in the United Provinces (of which it has pleased God so long to deprive them),

and which all classes of people have so long and ardently desired."

There is one expression in this letter which limits the authority delivered into the hands of the English favourite—we refer to the words which we have printed in italics:—and by confining his influence to military affairs alone, the States only acted up to what was the express will and desire of Elizabeth herself. It seems never to have been her intention to exercise sovereign authority in the United Provinces; and we believe her to have stated the truth when she declared to the ambassadors "that she neither desired to increase her own power in the Netherlands nor to prejudice in any way their liberties and rights." It was enough for her to defeat the policy of Spain—who, in league with the Pope, threatened her with the greatest danger; and setting aside her habitual wavering and hesitation before she had formed a decision, and the ostentatious display of power and displeasure evinced towards the Dutch ambassadors, we believe that she was equally ready to assist the Dutch as they were to demand her succour and to submit to her desires.

We will conclude this article with a notice of some interesting writings on this subject which have appeared recently in the Netherlands. Mademoiselle Toussaint—one of whose novels, 'Het huis Laucresse,' has been translated in England—published last year a new work in three volumes, 'Leicester in the Netherlands,' an historical romance,—in which she represents Leicester to have been thwarted by the States from the very moment of his arrival in Holland;—thus, of course, imputing his failure in great measure to the ill policy of the Dutch themselves. This opinion was ably refuted by Prof. Beyerman, of Amsterdam; whilst a M. Mensinga, a Dutch clergyman, flew to the defence of the lady, and did his best to maintain her view of the case. Though the gallantry of his undertaking deserved perhaps a better fate, we are sorry to say that Prof. Beyerman has, in a new work—an amplification of his first essay on the matter,—completely disabled his antagonist; and the publication of the letters which we have above illustrated confirms in every respect the opinion of that able and witty writer. As Elizabeth's conduct towards the States is well exposed, we do not doubt that some account of the Professor's brochure* will be received with interest by the friends of historical study;—and it may be well introduced here as relative to all the matters which we have slightly touched on. Remark that it was only sound policy in Elizabeth, for the reasons which we have already given, to assist the States, the writer further observes that the continual intrigues of Philip to excite a rebellion in England, or even to deprive Elizabeth of her life—the plan he had formed against Ireland in 1571—the attempt of Don Juan of Austria, in 1576—and, some years later the close union into which Spain had fallen with the Pope in order to overthrow the Queen of England and the Protestant Church—forced Elizabeth to a struggle which she had in the beginning been most desirous of avoiding; and when Philip's power had increased to an alarming extent by the conquest of Portugal, the renovation of the League in France, and the alliance concluded between Philip and the Guises for the overthrow of the Protestant religion—and when distractions in the United Provinces seemed to promise the Spanish monarch the most complete success in that quarter,—the measures which she took in defending the States against his aggressions were rendered in every way necessary by a due regard for her own safety.

It appears from Leicester's conduct that the mission intrusted to him by the Queen was in every way agreeable to him. He made considerable sacrifices to equip his troops,—to which Elizabeth in no way contributed; and in March 1586 the Earl had already expended 11,000*l.* of his own money in the affair, whilst his meagre pay as a general was all that his government afforded him. Of the large sum, 27,000*l.*, which he brought over with him to Holland, he had not enough left, on his return, to defray the expenses of his passage back to the British Isles. The Professor goes on to assert that not the slightest dis-

* Oldenbarnevelt, de Staten van Holland en Leycester in 1585 en 1586. Eene bijdrage enz. Door M. Hugo Beyerman. Deyver, A. ter Gunne, 1847.

content was evinced by Leicester against the States until the middle of April 1586.

The misunderstanding and coolness that then arose are to be attributed to Leicester's false position in Holland. He had been appointed Governor-General by the States, greatly to the displeasure of his Mistress, —which she had not failed to express to the States: and she herself never acknowledged him in any other capacity than that of her Lieutenant-General,—which naturally in a great measure diminished the respect with which the Queen's favourite had till then been treated. It is not to be questioned that his vanity and presumption raised him many powerful enemies in course of time; while his exertions were crippled by his mediocre talents, and by the want of the support which it had been hoped he would have received from his own government. The appointment of Maurice as stadtholder is also not considered to have been made in order to thwart Leicester in any degree. It was a measure which had long before been decided on; and in the negotiations with France and England, when the offer of the sovereignty was made, the continuation of Prince Maurice as governor of Holland and Zealand was expressly stipulated. To the evidence of these facts, and to gratitude and affection towards Maurice of Orange, and not to any dislike of Leicester, Oldenbarnevelt seems to have yielded when he did his utmost to further the promotion of the Prince.

Of great interest are the passages in which the assertion of the historian Hooft is refuted,—who maintains that Leicester was furnished with secret instructions "to inquire into the means and powers of the Low Countries; as his Mistress had determined, if they could defend themselves, to accept the sovereignty over them." The historian relates this, sixty years after the events referred to took place, as an unknown anecdote of the period; and the Professor proves how unlikely it is that it could have remained a secret for so long a time,—particularly as it would have been the interest of the States to give notoriety to a circumstance which would have cleared them from the then existing accusations against them of ingratitude towards England. In Leicester's correspondence, too, published in 1844, there appears not one word of Elizabeth's eventually aiming at the sovereignty of the United Provinces.

Such an increase of her authority would most likely have proved prejudicial to her safety by rendering all attempts at a negotiation with Spain fruitless; and the most able statesmen of the time feared that new obstacles to peace would arise from the dread which her enemies entertained of her desire of conquest and increase of dominion,—a dread that was heightened by the elevation of Leicester to the dignity of Governor-General. Hence, too, the Queen's anger at this event,—and the public and repeated threats of recalling her general and his troops from the Netherlands. From these circumstances, then, we may deduce that the States, far from wishing to cripple Leicester's authority, were willing to do their utmost to please him and the Queen; but that his ill-judged elevation to a rank which drew down on themselves and the favourite the displeasure of Elizabeth, was the primal cause of the disunion that ensued.

These are the most striking points of Professor Beyerman's clever little book,—which it would exceed our limits to quote from more largely.

The MS. letters which we have introduced to the notice of the readers of the *Athenæum* are all contained in the provincial archives of Gelderland.

NATURAL HISTORY OF SCINDE.

Rome, December 28, 1847.

I have recently received a letter from Capt. Vicary, of the East India Company's service, dated Subathoo (at the foot of the sub-Himalaya range),—which contains an observation that seems to me to be worthy of notice in your journal. Your readers who take any interest in the progress of geology will recollect that Capt. Vicary is the officer who was judiciously selected by Lieut.-General Sir Charles Napier to explore the mineral structure of the province of Scinde,—and that the results of his survey were communicated to the Geological Society of London. His Memoirs threw much new light on the extension and relations of the great nummulitic formation which, ranging from Egypt across Persia by Bagdad, constitutes the chief masses of the meridian chain on

the right bank of the Indus. Many specimens of the organic remains of those mountains and of the remarkable tertiary deposits on their eastern flank have been collected,—and a choice selection from them is now on its way to England. Among the most recent discoveries of Capt. Vicary, near Subathoo, is a long-nosed crocodile, which occurs, I presume, in a portion of those sub-Himalayan strata of tertiary age that, through the researches of Cautley and Falconer, have so enriched the British Museum —and are there undergoing a complete arrangement by the last-mentioned of these excellent naturalists.

In collecting the living plants of Scinde, of which he is preparing a description, Capt. Vicary has "discovered that they are made up of Indian forms, mixed up with those of Persia, Arabia, Africa, and particularly of Egypt; several species of the latter country being absolutely identical with those of Scinde." To the geologist who traces the same nummulitic limestone from the Nile to the Indus, this discovery is interesting as showing that—inasmuch as these two distant regions must formerly have been under a sea which was pervaded by a Fauna common to the whole of it,—so in the present terrestrial state of things the similarity of the Scindian and Egyptian subsoils (which are continuous, not separated by any great natural barriers) is accompanied by a striking coincidence in the living Flora of the two countries.

The physical geographer will not fail to profit by this new observation on the distribution of plants.

I am, &c.,

RODERICK I. MURCHISON.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

Rome, January 5.

A circumstance has just occurred here which has caused no small excitement in the public mind—for even here a public mind begins to exist; and which, as curiously indicative of the march of social progress, may be worth communicating to your readers. There has existed in Rome since the 12th of last May a sort of club of a kind hitherto not tolerated by the governments of Italy. In most of the cities of the peninsula was found a "Casino dei nobili,"—a re-union confined rigorously to the nobles, and devoted to billiards, cards, lounging, and an occasional ball given in the Carnival. But in Rome not even this was permitted. There was no point or means of public meeting whatever. When, therefore, in obedience to the new spirit presiding over Roman affairs and destinies, on the 12th of last May a club constituted on liberal principles and with rational objects was formed with the permission of the government, the innovation was great and the step in advance a notable one. The new club was styled the "Circolo Romano":—its leading feature of novelty, as compared with the usual Casino of the other Italian cities, was the admissibility of all ranks. Any man is eligible,—and the present list of the society embraces men of all classes. But a scarcely less important novelty was the addition of a reading-room. A mere lounging-place might do for uneducated *far-niente* nobles dreadfully put to it for some means of getting through the day; but more solid and rational means of attraction and amusement were necessary for the body of the professional and mercantile classes—sadly behind-hand in instruction and civilization as these, too, must be, admitted to be. The result has been that the reading-room, well furnished with the newspapers of all nations, has become the principal feature of the establishment; and has made the "Circolo" a most important instrument of social progress and a school for the formation of public political opinion.

The rooms occupied by the society are the *primo piano* of a palace in the Corso, exactly opposite the Palazzo Ruspoli, well known as the *locale* of the Caffè Nuovo. The number of members at present is between three and four hundred: and among them are the Princes Doria and Borghese, and others belonging to the leading noble families of Rome. This I mention as a proof that the noblesse have not, as might possibly have been anticipated, held themselves aloof from this unexclusive and mixed society. Strangers are admitted to the enjoyment of all the advantages of membership in a very liberal manner on the presentation of any member. The card of invitation received by a stranger states that "the President

having been informed by such a member of the high qualities of Mr. So-and-so, begs him to make use of the rooms of the Society at his pleasure, and to avail himself of whatever conveniences they may offer." Now, the officers in whom the government of this society is vested are elected by the members annually; and the startling fact which was the especial inducement to me to write the present letter occurred at the election which took place at the close of last year. A certain number of councillors are chosen by the votes of the members:—and he of the new council who had the greatest number was a Jew!

They who have some knowledge of Rome, not regarded as a mere museum but as a city of living men—they who know anything of its social habits, prejudices, manners and ways of thinking—will be able to appreciate the magnitude and startling nature of this fact. I was looking the other day at a band of children marching two and two through the streets in the uniform of the Guardia Civica, with an "S" in their caps for "Speranza" to denote that they are the hope of their country. They were, in fact, a sort of Guardia Civica seminary; and two lads were pointed out to me, of whom one was the son of the Prince Canino and great-nephew of the Emperor Napoleon, and the other the son of Ciccu-ruchio, the hay-dealer, whose name has lately become so well known. The band of boys were returning from their exercises in the Barberini Gardens; and the two lads whom I have mentioned were marching most fraternally side by side, and chattering as if there were no such thing as social distinctions in the world. And this was pointed out to me as a most notable instance of liberalism and proof of the progress of opinion. And pretty enough it was to see the young defenders of the future liberties of their country thus learning to unite themselves in her cause—prince and peasant alike feeling that cause to be their own. But what is that as a triumph over inveterate prejudices compared to the fact before related? What a mass of misconception and ignorance—what a rank growth of old hatreds carefully inculcated and fomented through centuries in the breasts of successive generations—must have given way and disappeared before the dawning light era such a phenomenon could have been witnessed! And it is to be noted that no special circumstances led to the election of the gentleman in question. He is a very fit and proper person:—but the reason for his election was his faith. The Jew was chosen because he was a Jew—because the more enlightened Romans of 1848 were determined to mark their adhesion to the great principle that religious faith ought in nowise to influence a man's social or political station.—Strange, indeed, would it be if while this truth is affirmed in Rome it should be practically denied by a British House of Commons. It is difficult to believe that England should have to receive a lesson on such a subject from Rome. Yet there will not be wanting worthy gentlemen who, in the coming debate on this principle in our legislature, will strive—vainly it is to be hoped—to consecrate a prejudice obsolete even in the immemorial headquarters of bigotry, exclusiveness, and intolerance.

Few are aware how thorny, how obstructed, how almost desperately difficult is the path of improvement at Rome. Few are aware how great and all but insuperable are the difficulties of the course which Pio Nono has marked out for himself. It might be supposed from the very considerable number of English every winter resident in Rome, that a tolerably accurate knowledge of the social position and political condition of Rome would not be uncommon among us. But the reverse is most remarkably the case. The fact is, our countrymen visit the Eternal City for the most part solely as a museum. They acquaint themselves with its antiquities,—study its marbles, pictures, churches,—bask in its sun; but as a living city of nineteenth-century men they know little or nothing of it. Of its government, its resources, its institutions, its finances, its establishments, legal, clerical, governmental, they have far less knowledge than of those of any other European state. It must be admitted that accurate information on all these subjects is peculiarly difficult of attainment at Rome. The Papal States are more devoid of printed information on such matters than it is possible to conceive. Would it be believed,—

to instance a very simple matter—that there does not exist a tolerably good map of the city of Rome,—that the best is still that of Nolli, which was executed before the construction of the Piazza del Popolo; that there does not exist any tolerable map of the States of the Church—that the best, from which the recent plans for the proposed railways were laid down, is one dedicated to Pope Benedict the Fourteenth, who died in 1758!

The general idea, indeed, is that all administration and civil and social polity is bad at Rome,—but few have known *how* bad. Few have any adequate idea of the universal corruption spread through every department, pervading and holding together officials high and low as with one huge net—from whose all-embracing folds it is next to impossible to extricate any portion of the public machine. It is impossible to name the most palpable, gross, evident and apparently simple-remedied abuse, nuisance or malpractice, but that if inquired into it turns out to be continued and tolerated because it is, perhaps in some inconceivably indirect manner, profitable to some one at the cost of the many.

Then, the very close connexion between Church and State—or rather their identification—leads to a condition of things which admits of almost every abuse being more or less placed under the sheltering protection of religion. We know ourselves, alas! right well the potency of the cry of "Church in Danger!"—and the uses to which it may be turned. But at Rome a proposal to cleanse the filth of some sewerless alley may place the Church in danger, very possibly. The cry shrieked from the gaping throats of a hundred corruption-fattened dignitaries meets and scares the reformer at every turn. And this is a species of impediment which especially clogs the path of the excellent and well-meaning Pontiff.

Pio Nono is an admirable prince—a resolute, large-hearted, upright and courageous man so far as this world's dangers are concerned. But he is, it seems, a man of a timorous—and, it is to be feared, not enlightened—conscience. His first impulse is ever towards good; but there are those about him who find the means of perpetually alarming his conscience by representing measures which would be for the benefit of mankind as hostile to the interests of religion. Two events occurred here the other day, almost contemporaneously, which warn us that, in proverbial phrase, we are "not out of the wood yet,"—and which speak of Rome as it was, its ways and manners, as forcibly as the incident with which I began my letter tells of Rome as it is about to be.

The one was a miracle. A sick girl, epileptic (the old story) fell into a state of ecstasy; and therein foretold that an aunt of hers, who was ill, would not recover—but that she herself *should* recover on a certain day. Both prophecies were accurately fulfilled. These circumstances I believe to be strictly true. I had a good deal of conversation with the celebrated Orioli (recently, by-the-by, recalled from his banishment at Corfu, and appointed to the chair of History at the Sapienza) upon the subject. He had inquired into the facts—and believed them to be correctly stated. But he explained them in his own fashion; considering the case to be one of *clairvoyance* induced by "spontaneous mesmerism,"—a phenomenon which he asserted to be, in his opinion, by no means rare. Be this as it may, the girl on coming out of her ecstatic condition declared—whether spontaneously or by suggestion is not clear—that she had been favoured with a vision; that a certain Madonna—she of Loretto I believe—had appeared to her and communicated to her the facts which she had foretold. The miracle was recognized by the clergy. The Madonna in question was carried through the streets in triumph; and processions were formed and services chanted on the occasion.

The other occurrence was a simpler one. A man was stabbed dead in the Piazza Colonna, the most central and frequented spot of all Rome,—and there left to lie till the morning sun shone upon the corpse in the midst of the busy city. The body was then carried away to the dead house—the by-standers said "Poverino!"—and there was an end of that. A sad sight in the midst of a civilized community;—yet to my eye not so sad as the companion occurrence which I have related above. Saddest of all is the

irresistible conclusion, which all must come to who know this country, that these two events may be considered as throwing light on each other—that they are connected by the relationship of cause and effect. Where events of the one sort are to be found, there deeds of the other will not be wanting.

I am quite sure that in writing this I am biased by no partisan or sectarian spirit, or "odium theologium." I speak of the matter solely in a lay and social point of view, without any reference whatever to doctrinal disputes or theological opinions. Nor am I speaking at all of Catholicism, or Romanism, call it as you will, in general. The religion practised under this name in the North of Europe is a very different thing from that of the South, however identical the professed doctrines may be. The religion of a people, as every other portion of their social existence and moral nature, is modified by their temperament. Marriage is doctrinally the same thing in the North as in the South;—but in practice, in feeling, and in fact, it is a very different institution.

I am straying into a subject far too large for such a letter as this,—and perchance exposing myself to a "*ne sutor ultra crepidam*." But the two occurrences above related led me to reflect on the utter disjunction of religion, as practised here, from moral restraint. I could write a volume full of facts—some minutely small, some strikingly large—all tending to prove that the Paganism of old Rome is far from extinct in its former haunts, and that the peculiar dogmas of Christianity as taught at Rome tend to produce, rather than to repress, crime, by providing and pointing out easy methods of ridding the conscience of the sting which crime produces. Perhaps I would write such a volume, if I thought that I could persuade the world to believe that I wrote as a social observer only, not as a religious controversialist.

And now,—to finish my letter, as I began it, with a pleasant fact,—I may mention that I dined a day or two since with a party of the leading members of the new Consulta, assembled round the hospitable board of a distinguished countryman of our own; where the conversation, carried on in Italian before a variety of strange servants, and without any precaution whatever, was as completely free, as wholly unrestrained in its disquisitions on government men and measures, and as severe in its strictures, as could have been the case in London or Paris. *This* would have been wholly out of the question two years since.

OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

WE have received from Mr. Demmler—who is not a captain, as our correspondent called him, but a Lutheran clergyman—the following letter.—

"Sandhurst Royal Military College, Jan. 25.

"Though I would not encroach on your valuable space, I beg leave to state, in reply to your remarks occasioned by Mrs. Austin's excellent letter, that I restored to my translation of Ranke's 'Nine Books of Prussian History' the original title as soon as I had seen from the notice of your Berlin correspondent that the author had objected to the change. The care and scrupulous attention which I am conscious of having bestowed upon a work that presents more than ordinary difficulties to the translator will be my warrant that, in substituting a title which seemed better suited to the taste of the English public, I would not have been guilty of anything like quackery; and I trust that Prof. Ranke himself would, on perusal of my translation, be the last man to bring such an accusation against me. I have, &c.,

F. DEMMLER."

It is, of course, gratifying to us to find that our remonstrance—which was made precisely in that intention—has had a useful effect. Prof. Ranke, Mr. Demmler, the public, and ourselves as a part of it, are all gainers by our plain speaking.—We have received, too, a further communication from the same quarter which conveyed to us in the first instance the expression of Prof. Ranke's feelings. Referring to our remarks on Mrs. Austin's letter, our correspondent says—"They are precisely what I could have wished said; and I concur fully not only in their substance, but in the tone of respect towards Mrs. Austin which pervades them. You give exactly the right view of my intention in interfering." Mrs. Austin will further understand

that our correspondent had no intention which should be disagreeable to herself by the following additional passage which we extract from the same letter. "It is just I should add that the same channel through which I learned Prof. Ranke's annoyance on this point has often conveyed expressions of his high estimation of Mrs. Austin's labours in the translation of his works." The matter has now, we think, taken the right ground—and there we willingly leave it.

Mr. R. D. Grainger, the lecturer on Physiology at St. Thomas's Hospital, has been appointed by the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons to deliver the annual oration, on the 14th of next month, in memory of the founder of the Hunterian Museum—that day being the anniversary of the birth of John Hunter.

There are few subjects on which this country has a fairer right to self-gratulation than the possession of its numerous munificent endowments for charitable and educational purposes—the fruits of which might be made so precious, the advantages rendered so extensive and so valuable. But, unfortunately, as the readers of the *Athenæum* are not now to learn, the administration of these noble and important public trusts has fallen into the hands of corporate bodies or other parties who, in the rigid spirit of a narrow conservatism, are more inclined to adhere to the written letter of a founder's will than to fulfil his obvious intentions. The state of the Free Grammar School at Blackburn is now engaging the attention of the educational reformers of that thriving manufacturing town. This school, which received a charter from Queen Elizabeth, was established for the purpose of teaching "grammar" to the boys and young persons of the "village of Blackburn"—as it is called in the legal instrument. The town now contains 70,000 inhabitants.—The institution has long been and still continues in a complete state of inefficiency. So far as the actual persons for whose benefit it was founded are concerned, it might just as well have been established at the sources of the Nile. The chief difficulty in the way of a reform of the institution in the sense of rendering it more available to the purposes of the place, without departing from the positive injunctions of the charter, is the want of a larger definition of the word "grammar." In scholastic and mediæval times a "grammar school" meant an institution for teaching languages—the learned ones especially—according to the proper rules: and the term retained this signification in the reign of Elizabeth. Acquaintance with these languages was then absolutely necessary as the key to other studies,—as very different acquisitions are now. The times and the term have alike altered. A mercantile community has need of far other than a merely classical education of its youth. In the case of Blackburn, then, the course is clear—it must get a new charter. A very liberal interpretation of the terms of the existing one *might* perhaps enable the trustees to add modern languages to their catalogue of studies;—but if they wish to widen the sphere of usefulness by including commercial instruction in the preamble, they had better at once apply for a fresh authority than seek to amend the old one, which was framed with a view to a totally different set of circumstances.

The printed Report of the Astronomical Society mentions that an obelisk, sixty-four feet high, has been erected as a monument to Newton by the Rev. Charles Turnor, in the park of Stoke Rochford, Lincolnshire,—the residence of his nephew, Christopher Turnor, Esq. Newton when a child went to a little day-school at Stoke,—which gives propriety to the site. The inscription is as follows:—"In memory of Sir Isaac Newton, who was born at Woolsthorpe, an adjoining hamlet, and received the first rudiments of his education in the parish of Stoke. This obelisk was erected by Charles Turnor, M.A., F.R.S. Prebendary of Lincoln, A.D. MDCCCLVII. May the inhabitants of the surrounding district recollect with pride that so great a philosopher drew his first breath in the immediate neighbourhood of this spot; and may such feelings long be perpetuated by this monument, which records the veneration of posterity for the memory of that illustrious man!"

We see with pleasure that the Western Literary and Scientific Institution in Leicester Square—which, after an existence of more than twenty years, had been obliged, as our readers know, to close its doors

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in August last—has found the means in a review of its circumstances and of the causes which may have operated injuriously on them to reopen. A faith in the vitality of such institutions is a pledge of their success; and since that has been found to survive, amongst the friends of this establishment, the very examination which arose out of doubt and discouragement—since the principle is recognized as intact among the circumstances that impeded it—we have confidence that so valuable an institution will not be withdrawn from amongst the education resources that modern arrangements are more and more every day providing for the people. The most important portion of the valuable library which the Institution had accumulated has been preserved to it—and additions of value have, we are informed, been made.—We see, too, that the new trial given to the Greenock Artizan Club promises to reward the energy and benevolence which prompted it. The feeling in favour of the Institution is spreading and deepening. A public soirée was held in the Assembly Rooms last week—Mr. William Chambers presiding; and in view of the strong expressions then used as to the value of such an association, it is difficult to contemplate the chance of failure for want of due support.—By the way, speaking of artizans, we must not pass unnoticed one instance of their practical association which illustrates the new spirit that the age owes to literary institutions and mechanics' institutes. The working men of Birmingham have raised among themselves by subscription the noble sum of £241. for a New Year's Offering towards the funds of the Queen's Hospital in their town.

The collection of fossils and minerals belonging to Mr. William Hutton of Newcastle-upon-Tyne has been offered for sale to the Natural History Society of Newcastle. The Society, however, owing to the exhausted state of their funds, have been unable to purchase the whole; and are now in treaty for the fossils—and likely, it is said, to secure them. These, principally from the coal districts in the North, are the specimens figured in Lindley and Hutton's Fossil Flora; and the collection of minerals is known to many naturalists—having been deposited for some years in the Museum of the Natural History Society of Newcastle.

We have received a long and somewhat angry letter from Mr. Bohn, the bookseller, in reply to certain observations which we thought fit to make [*ante*, p. 65] on cheap reprints in general,—and on our allusion in connexion with the same subject to the new edition announced of Bryan's 'Dictionary of Painters' and the contemplated edition of Walpole's 'Anecdotes of Art in England.' Mr. Bohn has read our remarks as if we objected to the progress of cheap literature. He has therefore very seriously misapprehended our meaning and misrepresented our words. These were expressly that "cheap reprints of standard works where the sale is large must effect a good." The whole drift of our remarks went to encourage the progress of cheap, well edited, and revised reprints. Mr. Bohn is really doing good service at times in his mere cheap reproduction of expensive works; but when he supplies (as he now and then does) un-revised reprints of works that especially require a very painstaking revision, he stands in the way of others able and willing to give us really well revised editions of the self-same works. In the instances alluded to by us, however, it appears this is not the case. "So far," says Mr. Bohn, "from reprinting Bryan's 'Dictionary of Painters' in its present imperfect state, the new edition is being carefully and extensively revised by a gentleman who combines both the literary and practical knowledge requisite for the undertaking, and is, I have reason to believe, thoroughly competent. The 'Walpole,' too, is in a similar position; and is being edited by a practised writer on Art—who has been so highly praised by your journal that I felt no hesitation in intrusting the work to his care. The name," Mr. Bohn adds, "of both editors will be given when the works are ready for publication." All this seems satisfactory enough;—though we should have been as well pleased to have the names of the competent persons; and still better so had Mr. Bohn told us that he had obtained the use of Vertue's MSS. for the revision of the 'Walpole.' This was the point on which our remarks were made most emphatically to turn.

The Calcutta *Englishman* reports the particulars

of a model and note presented at a recent meeting of the Asiatic Society in that city, by Capt. Fitzgerald, of the Nizam's service—in terms which are almost enough to tempt the least locomotive beyond seas, on the chance of picking up some of the gems of "Ormus or of Ind." The note stated that about twelve or fourteen years ago a poor child was playing with a bright stone, for which some one offered it *eight annas*. This excited the suspicions of the parents; and the stone was eventually found to be a diamond! It is now in the possession of His Highness the Nizam; who purchased it for 70,000 rupees, though some pieces are stated to have been chipped off. If of good water, His Highness has a cheap bargain according to the usual estimated value of such stones. The model, which is in lead, is of the size of a small egg-plum (*hair*) fruit,—drawn out at one end to a pear-shaped point, as is sometimes seen in pearls, and with a slice of one-fourth taken off from one side,—leaving still a very respectable lump of a diamond, notwithstanding any reasonable allowance for defects in it. It is much larger than a pigeon's egg even now!

The Academy of Moral and Political Sciences at Paris has chosen M. Walter to succeed the late M. Pinheiro Ferreira, in its section of legislation—the Abbé Rosmini in the room of M. de Galluppi, in philosophy—and Mr. Bancroft, the American historian, to supply the place of M. Geyer—all as corresponding members.

Dr. Wainwright, whose melancholy death from the bite of a rattlesnake we recorded a fortnight since, it seems formerly a captain in the British service—but has been ten years resident in New York. He was, it is said, a physician of eminent standing—of high reputation in medical, literary, and scientific acquirements. The American papers supply many particulars respecting the singular catastrophe. The snake was about five feet in length—having twelve rattles. It was contained in a box with spars over the top. "The Doctor was on his way home from the ship with the present, but stopped at the Broadway-house to show the curiosity. The company present seemed to enjoy teasing and irritating the snake, while the reptile kept whizzing its rattle at a furious rate. The box was opened,—and now there being a fair field, the reptile kept coiling and rearing itself in fierce defiance of its enemies. This display lasted some time; when Dr. Wainwright touched the snake a few inches below the head,—expecting that it could not bend its body sufficiently to bite. In a moment it snapped,—and inflicted a wound on the first joint of the middle finger of the right hand." A superficial excision of the part was immediately made, the wound was cauterized with nitrate of sulphur, and a ligature was applied above the wrist. The hand began to swell immediately after the occurrence of the accident; and the disease progressed rapidly in its course to the forearm and arm. But no constitutional symptoms seem to have made their appearance until it reached what the faculty technically term the "axilla," or armpit:—when immediately the pulse began to flag; and notwithstanding the continual application of stimulants, the pulse never rallied until about twelve o'clock, P.M. when death put a period to the Doctor's existence.

DIORAMA, REGENT'S PARK.—NOTICE.—The celebrated picture of the INTERIOR OF ST. MARK'S, AT VENICE, is exhibiting alone for a short time. It is seen under two aspects, Day and Night, and during the latter effect the Grand Machine Organ will perform the 'Kyrie,' from Mozart's Mass No. 12.—Open from Ten till Four.

SOCIETIES

ASTRONOMICAL.—Dec. 10.—Capt. W. H. Smyth, R.N., V.P., in the chair.—Capt. F. Blackwood, R.N., was elected a Fellow.

'Flora.' Observations. By MM. Bishop and Hind.—and Prof. Challis.

Elements. By Mr. Hind. It appears that the period of revolution of Flora (about three and a quarter years) is considerably shorter than that of any other small planet. It is also less than that of Encke's Comet, which has hitherto taken the lead after Mars. According to the latest and most accurate determinations of their elements, it appears probable that the small planets now have the following order with respect to mean distance from the sun:—Flora, Iris, Vesta, Hebe, Astræa, Juno, Ceres, Pallas.

Letter from the Rev. W. R. Dawes.

Ephemeris. For Greenwich mean midnight. By Mr. Hind.

'Hebe.' Observations. By Prof. Challis—and Sir T. M. Brisbane.

'Iris.' Observations. By Prof. Challis.

Ephemeris, For 6th Greenwich mean time. By Mr. Hind, from M. d'Arrest's Second Elements.

'Neptune.' Observations. By Prof. Challis—and Sir T. M. Brisbane.

Ephemeris. By Mr. Adams.

'Sweeping Ephemeris for the expected Comet of 1264 and 1556.' From Mr. Hind's tables in the *Monthly Notice* for April 1847.

'Miss Mitchell's Comet.' Observations. By Prof. Challis.

Elements. By Mr. Rümker—and Mr. N. Pogson.

Ephemeris. By Mr. G. Rümker.

'Colla's Comet.' Observations. By Prof. Challis—and Mr. Lassell.

'Annular Eclipse of Oct. 8-9, 1847, as observed at Bombay.'

'Beads in Annular Eclipses.' By the Rev. Prof. Baden Powell.

'Results deduced from the Occultations of Stars and Planets by the Moon. Observed at Cambridge Observatory from 1830 to 1835.' By the Astronomer Royal.

ROYAL INSTITUTION.—Jan. 22.—W. R. Hamilton, V.P. Treasurer, in the chair.—The Master of Trinity College, Cambridge, 'On the Use of Hypothesis in Science.' The object of Dr. Whewell's discourse was to develop and enforce a conviction which his long-continued attention to the history and philosophy of science had impressed on his own mind, namely, that indispensable as constant and careful experiment is to the promotion of philosophy, so another element beyond the mere accumulation of facts is equally needed to enable science to make any progress. This element is *hypothesis*. By way of introduction to his remarks on the use of hypothesis, Dr. Whewell cited the following maxim of Lord Bacon: "Truth emerges from error sooner than from confusion." Hypothesis is necessarily a connexion of facts. Erroneous and distorted this connexion may be, but it must contain something of truth. Ill-connected facts may be manipulated in a manner which is inapplicable to facts connected by no bond or tie. Dr. Whewell then arranged his views of the utility of hypotheses under the following heads:—I. *Hypotheses, if partly true, record facts in a connected form, and enable philosophers to calculate the results of laws and to add new laws to old.* The ancient astronomical hypothesis of cycles, epicycles, and excentrics was erroneous but valuable: it enabled celestial phenomena to be connected with each other, eclipses to be predicted, &c. Nor was this hypothesis rejected until it was found inadequate to explain all the facts which the more exact observation of modern times elicited. In conclusion of this part of the subject, a detailed account was given of the nature and history of this hypothesis; which, although false, was so serviceable as to make it difficult to affirm whether its establishment or its overthrow contributed the most to the advancement of astronomical science.—II. *Hypotheses, which contain truth, by being compared with accumulating facts become so transformed that their truth is retained and their error gradually eliminated.* a. Thus, with respect to the orbit of the planet Mars, Kepler tried to mould the theory of epicycles so as to express the exact observations of Tycho. After trying many forms of the hypothesis of epicycles, he found that the true orbit was an ellipse; but he also found that the old hypothesis might have been transformed into the ellipse. "What a fool was I," he exclaimed, "not to see that the epicycle might be the way to an ellipse!" b. The hypothesis of the planets being carried round the sun in vortices was proved by Newton to be false; but was long maintained, because when this hypothesis came to be put into mathematical language by the good mathematicians of the Cambrian school (Bernoulli, &c.), no result of the supposed vortex remained except a force tending to a centre. The hypothesis of vortices was transformed into that of a central force. c. The hypothetical transit of fluid-caloric by conduction, as measured by La Place, became transformed into a theory of vibrations by Ampère's differential equations for such vibrations.

d. What is called the emission hypothesis of light must be gradually made to pass into the undulatory hypothesis if it be modified so as to explain, or even to express, the facts. For this purpose we must have interferences of rays, fits or cycles of vibrations, side or transverse vibrations, circular properties, which are compound transverse vibrations. And thus the emission theory, if still held, could be transformed into the undulatory theory. Dr. Whewell next proceeded to enumerate departments of philosophy in which, according to his judgment, a sound hypothetical manner of stating facts was still needed.

—1. The laws of the circular polarization of light. Hypothetical explanations of the process of this circular polarization have to a certain extent been given by Fresnel; and for crystalline bodies, though difficult, is conceivable. Moreover, there is in certain specimens of quartz a twist, apparently followed by the observed polarization, which helps to make the hypothetical twisting of the plane of polarization conceivable. The more difficult case is that of fluids. It is hard to conceive how their particles can give a twist to the planes of polarization in every possible direction of incident light. Here any hypothesis which would express the facts must be valuable. The phenomena suggest the idea of the particles being *burr-shaped*,—i. e. as if they were globules formed of radiating crystals. But the most perplexing case of all is that presented by the twist given to the planes of polarization by magnetism (as in Faraday's well-known experiments on the magnetism of light); for here the ray appears twisted in the same direction in whatever way the current travels.—2. Hypothesis is also needed in regard to the atomic constitution of bodies,—i. e. with respect to the figure which atoms assume in space. The requisite conditions of such a hypothesis were illustrated by diagrams. If the particles of the same and of different atoms were properly arranged, there ought to be found a chemical, corresponding to the mechanical, symmetry of the resulting crystal.—3. Hypotheses respecting the tides. Having referred to the co-tidal lines described in his 'Researches on the Tides,' communicated to the Royal Society, Dr. Whewell remarked that it was extremely difficult to draw these lines so as to be continuous, as seen in the Atlantic Ocean,—while in the Pacific the phenomena seem full of contradictions. But even supposing the co-tidal lines of the Atlantic or Pacific determined, still an hypothesis is needed to explain the movement of the water; and such an hypothesis would be exceedingly difficult to frame.—4. Some distinct hypothesis is needed respecting the usual form of the Aurora Borealis, which may explain the low northern arch, the dark space below, the upright beams above, the confused indications of parallax, and the like. Such a hypothesis was suggested merely as a first trial.—Dr. Whewell concluded his discourse by indicating in what way hypothesis could be most effectually applied to subjects of scientific inquiry. He suggested that at the outset of such inquiry a distinction must be drawn between *conscious* and *unconscious* hypothesis. *Unconscious* hypothesis is necessarily introduced when vague facts, and those which involve some assumption on the part of the observer, are to be described. This happens when accounts are given of the phenomena of disease or of organization. In these cases the description is coloured by unconscious hypothesis. This proves that a more exact mode of describing, defining and distributing elementary facts is needed. Hypothesis becomes *conscious* when the elementary facts are capable of being reduced to law, quantity, and measure:—such as mechanical, optical, crystalline, and magnetical phenomena,—the mode in which heat exists in bodies,—what, in respect to relation of particles, is the difference between solid, fluid and gaseous consistence. Applying these principles to Leonardo da Vinci's quaint, but most significant, saying that, in science, "Facts were the soldiers, but Theory the general," Dr. Whewell remarked that in vague subjects (the subjects of unconscious hypothesis) the soldiers had to be disciplined, whereas, in the measured subjects (those of conscious hypothesis) the philosopher found disciplined soldiers at his hand, and all he had to do was to manoeuvre and to lead them on. Dr. Whewell said that some of the greatest discoverers of our time feel that they are, as it were, inclosed in a dark chamber, with a

world of light beyond the walls, and only a few stray beams penetrating through chinks; but even to those indications of truth we are not to close our eyes. We are but to study the images of real objects which are thus produced; and from them, though distorted and perhaps inverted, we may expect to acquire some knowledge of that world of truth into which we hope to emerge.

GEOLOGICAL.—Jan. 19.—Sir H. T. De la Beche in the chair.—A paper 'On the Agate Quarries of Oberstein,' by W. J. Hamilton, Esq., Sec. G. S. was read. The village of Oberstein is situated in the valley of the Nahe on the road from Bingen to Saarbrück, and about thirty miles from Kreuznach. In the valley is seen the coarse red conglomerate which forms the basis of the sedimentary formations of the district, but near the village overlies and laps round protruding masses of amygdaloidal trap and porphyry. Below Kirn, it is covered by sandstones and blue shales which, often broken through by trap rocks, extend into the great basin of Mayence; and are there covered by the tertiary formations in which organic remains are so abundant. Near Oberstein, the conglomerate contains veins of imperfect agate or chalcedony of a honey yellow or reddish colour, which by means of certain processes is made to assume the deep red of the carnelian. These, however, are not the real quarries of the celebrated Oberstein agates, which come from the hills near Idal about two miles distant. The intervening country consists of a reddish brown trap, forming lofty cliffs, and containing numerous vesicular cavities filled with zeolites, calc spar, and other mineral substances. Beyond Idal is a greenish-brown trap rock; some portions of which are softer than the others, and contain nodules from an inch to a foot in length, which are filled with chalcedony or agate. In an escarpment of this rock are the real agate quarries. The smaller agates are solid, being completely filled with a compact pale ash grey chalcedonic mass. The larger ones are invariably hollow; the outer circumference consisting of layers of the same pale grey chalcedony, lined with botryoidal mammillations, or imperfect quartz crystals. The large nodules are found compressed, flattened out, and elongated, marking a peculiar action during the time of their formation. It is the outer portion of the agate which is used for ornamental purposes; and the workmen have learnt to change their colour, some becoming dark brown or chocolate, others zoned with alternate layers of black and white, or brown and white, like the onyx or sardonyx of antiquity,—not a few of which seem to have been produced in the same way.

BOTANICAL.—Jan. 7.—J. E. Gray, Esq. President, in the chair.—Five new Members were elected, and various donations were announced.—Dr. Planchon communicated some remarks 'On *Ulmus*, chiefly concerning the British Species.' He stated the result of his investigation of the genus to be the conviction that all British elms are referable to two species, *Ulmus campestris* and *U. montana*: the former distinguishable by the seed being placed near the apex of the winged fruit, the outline of which thus becomes more or less obovate—the latter by the seed being about or below the middle of the fruit, which thus becomes elliptical.

HORTICULTURAL.—Jan. 18.—J. J. Blandy, Esq., in the chair.—The Countess of Newbrough, C. W. Strickland, and M. Favell, Esqs., were elected Fellows.—Of novelties, Messrs. Veitch sent a little half shrubby purplish lilac-flowered species of *Hindsia* (?) raised from seeds sent by Mr. W. Lobb from the Organ Mountains of Brazil. Judging from its present appearance we should say that, though pretty, it can only be classed among plants of a third-rate character. Blossoming as it does at this season, it may, however, form a useful addition to our winter flowering plants, more especially if it prove to be a free bloomer, which it appears to be. At Exeter it has been found to succeed in a moderately warm greenhouse.—Mr. Glendinning sent a new Gesnerwort, resembling *G. hondenis* or *brevisiflora*.—Of fruit, from Mr. Vick, of Chichester, came a sample of Black Hamburg Grapes, being part of 7 lb. which were cut on the 16th instant from a vine growing on the south front of his dwelling-house. Last season being somewhat unfavourable to ripening

grapes in the open air, in order to accelerate this process some cucumber lights were placed over them in a sloping direction, and this, with the addition of a net suspended from the lights, was all the protection they received. The grapes exhibited were quite ripe and well coloured.

ZOOLOGICAL.—Jan. 11.—W. Yarrell, Esq., V.P. in the chair.—Prof. Owen read a paper 'On the Beaks and Skulls of *Dinornis*, *Palapteryx*, and other large apparently extinct Birds of New Zealand,'—in the course of which he demonstrated that the conjecture thrown out in his second Memoir on *Dinornis*, of the existence of two genera among the remains then under consideration, was now amply confirmed. The beak of *Palapteryx* is decidedly Struthion. The beak and skull of *Dinornis* differ very essentially from any form either recent or extinct; and were evidently of enormous proportional power. After a careful and detailed examination of the crania of these genera, of which most fortunately there are two nearly perfect examples, Prof. Owen directed the attention of the meeting to the cranium of a bird found in exactly the same state as the preceding, and under the same conditions, which bears the closest affinity to the existing *Porphyrio*,—still abundant in New Zealand and parts of Australia. In bulk, however, it is nearly four times larger. To this form Prof. Owen gives the name *Notornis*. The fourth form which was exhibited he referred to the existing genus *Nestor*. It was indicated by an entire upper mandible. The paper was illustrated by drawings, and the bones which formed the subject of them were exhibited on the table by the courtesy of Dr. Mantell, for whom they had been collected by his son, Mr. Walter Mantell, of Wellington, New Zealand. The collection formed by Mr. Mantell—which is of much larger extent than any previously transmitted to this country—is almost entirely from the volcanic sand of Waingongoro, and the bones are consequently in a very different condition. Many of them are as perfect as if they had just been taken from the macerating tub; and the great number which Mr. Mantell has succeeded in recovering will enable Prof. Owen to elaborate the structure of these interesting birds with a degree of completeness which could scarcely have been hoped for when the idea of these great relics of the gigantic bird race of Polynesia first dawned upon the world in 1839. Dr. Mantell gave a lucid account of the circumstances and locality in which the remains were found; and expressed his readiness to afford an opportunity of examining the whole series to any members of the society, who were desirous of availing themselves of his offer.—The business concluded with a short paper by Mr. L. Reeve, 'On a new genus of Molluscs, which he calls *Fastigiella*,' and a continuation of Mr. Gould's arrangement of the *Trochilidae*,—in which he characterized some new species from the Cordillera of the Andes.

ENTOMOLOGICAL.—Jan. 3.—W. Spence, Esq. President, in the chair.—Mr. J. O. Westwood exhibited various larvae infesting the truffle; including those of several dipterous insects, and of *Leiodes cinnamome*, communicated to him by Lady Braybrooke. He also exhibited a drawing of the last-named larva with magnified details.—Mr. Bond communicated a note from Mr. Thurnall on the fall of a flight of *Palaemonia virgo*, which, from their numbers, had the appearance of a snow storm.—Mr. Inghen exhibited a very minute coccideous insect covered with broad scales, probably the larva of a Calyptricus, with a highly magnified drawing thereof.—Capt. Parry read the descriptions of some new exotic beetles.—and Mr. Westwood read the descriptions of a number of new exotic Diptera belonging to the family *Aceroceridae*.

INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.—Jan. 11.—So J. Rennie, President, in the chair.—The first meeting of the session was held on Tuesday evening: when a paper was read descriptive of Mr. Frederick Ramsden's process for making artificial stone. Broken pieces of silica (common flint) being subjected for a time to the action of caustic alkali boiling under pressure in a close vessel, forms a transparent silicated solution, which is evaporated to a specific gravity of 1,600 (distilled water being 1,000) and is then intimately mixed with given proportions of well washed sand, broken

granite, or other materials of different degrees of hardness. The paste thus constituted, after being pressed into moulds, from which the most delicate impressions are readily received, is subjected to a red heat in a stove or kiln; by which operation the free or uncombined silica of the raw materials unites with the excess of alkali existing in the solution,—thus forming a semi-vitreous compound, and rendering the artificial stone perfectly insoluble. This production must evidently be adaptable to a comprehensive range of objects for decorative art and architectural purposes,—busts, vases, flooring-tiles, steps, balustrades, mouldings, capitals, shafts and bases of columns, &c. &c. Even grinding-stones and whet-stones for scythes have been made. It was stated to be already extensively manufactured at Ipswich, and to admit of extensive application where elaborately carved stone would be too expensive.

Mr. Richmond exhibited and explained an engine counter manufactured by him on an improved principle.

Jan. 18.—Sir J. Rennie, President, in the chair.

The following gentlemen were elected to form the Council for the ensuing year:—J. Field, President; W. Cubitt, J. M. Rendel, J. Simpson, and R. Stephenson, M.P., Vice Presidents; J. F. Bateman, G.P. Bidder, I. K. Brunel, J. Cubitt, J. Locke, M.P., J. Miller, W. C. Mylne, T. Sopwith, J. R. McClean, and C. May, Members; and J. Clutton and T. H. Wyatt, Associates.—The Report showed that the progress of the society was steadily good. Telford Medals were presented to Messrs. Jackson, Richardson, Murray, Glynn and Frodsham; and to the former two gentlemen Council premiums of books were added. Telford premiums of books were also awarded to Messrs. Elliott, Heppel, Shears and Masters for their communications during the past session. Memoirs were given of the deceased members and associates.—Messrs. Thom, Giles, Lipkens, Mushet, Reynolds, Holtzapffel, Evans, Watkins and Ball. The Council then alluded to the retiring of Sir J. Rennie from the post of President which he had filled for the last three years. Before leaving the chair Sir J. Rennie addressed the meeting on the selection of the President, and impressed upon them the claims of Mr. Field. He then examined the relative positions of the Civil Engineers and of the Government Boards and Commissioners, which had appeared to clash more than was desirable. This he showed not to arise from any of the acts of the Civil Engineers—who had ever been willing to afford their best assistance to the Government in any capacity. He urged that it would be for the interest of Government to take advantage of the talent, energy and practical skill of the Civil Engineers, by whom they had ever been well served, rather than incur the hazard and expense of forming a corps that would require more time for educating than could be afforded in these active times, when even hesitation is perdition.

INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS.—Jan. 10.—C. Fowler, V.P., in the chair.—M. de Caumont, of Caen, and Signor Bonucci, director of the excavations at Pompeii, &c., were elected honorary and corresponding Members; and Messrs. C. H. Howell, T. Y. Kimpston, and G. B. Williams, Associates.—Mr. Layard gave an interesting account of the peculiar construction of the edifices now in ruins at Nineveh. He more particularly mentioned the positive use of the arch; stating that one small chamber was perfectly vaulted with unburnt bricks,—the diameter of the arch being 13 or 14 feet, and the form semi-circular. Another curious fact mentioned was the existence of cramps of iron of a dovetailed form at each end, which had been used to connect the slabs of the internal walls. The bas-reliefs now in the British Museum were found by Mr. Layard under earth which had been used as a burial place, in Mr. Layard's opinion, 700 years B.C. Some beams of mulberry tree were discovered. A large drain had been constructed in each chamber leading to a main sewer outside the building.

Mr. Poynter read a paper 'On Ornamental Leather Hangings.' He stated that this material was used in a similar way by the Egyptians 900 years B.C.; but he principally confined his remarks to the use made of it since the 16th century—as, during that and the following century, it was extensively used by the richer classes—its manufacture being prin-

cially at Venice and in Flanders. From the latter country it was introduced into France—but it is doubtful if it was ever manufactured in England. Leather hangings never entirely superseded tapestry or wood panelling. The best leather was made from goats' or calves' skins, ingeniously connected together; and the surface was silvered over previously to being painted. The effect of gold was produced by a varnish of yellow colour laid on the silver. The embossing was done by the pressure from dies; the minute ornaments being produced by tools—the method corresponding to that adopted by bookbinders of the present day. Among the various specimens of this rich style of decoration exhibited, and belonging to Mr. Pratt of Bond-street, was a large and valuable hanging of the 17th century, representing the meeting of Antony and Cleopatra, richly painted and elaborately finished in all the details of the dresses and other portions of the figures which are the size of life. Mr. Poynter alluded to fine examples to be seen at Chatsworth and other mansions in England; and particularly described a series of leather panels at Rouen which are in a state of perfect preservation.

Jan. 24.—C. Fowler, V.P., in the chair.—Mr. W. Deane and Mr. H. Hodges were elected Associates.—Amongst the donations was a piece of Roman mosaic pavement, presented by Mr. J. Wallen, who discovered it nine feet below the surface of the earth, in making excavations for a building at the corner of Wood Street and Gresham Street.—Mr. Donaldson read a paper entitled, 'Notes of a Short Visit to Caen, with Remarks on its Quarries, Stone and Buildings, and a word or two on Arras.' After describing the qualities of the various beds in the quarries at Ranville and other places in the vicinity of Caen, Prof. Donaldson alluded to the durability of this stone as evinced by the perfect state of the public and other buildings, spires, monuments, &c. in that city. After giving a slight sketch of the principal buildings at Arras, he called attention to the specimens of the Gothic and Renaissance styles, to be met with in that town, through which the railway to Paris now passes. A discussion took place on the comparative qualities and durability of Caen and other stones. The chairman announced the decease of Mr. C. Dyer, Fellow, the architect of the Victoria Rooms, and many other public and private buildings, at Clifton and Bristol.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL INSTITUTE.—Jan. 7.—The Dean of Westminster in the chair.—The names of seven new subscribing members were announced; and several valuable presents were laid on the table. The Secretary read the following letter from the Earl of Malmesbury, in answer to the memorial of the Committee of the Institute against the proposed removal of the rood-screen in the ancient conventual church at Christchurch, Hants, already referred to in this paper [ante, p. 41].—

Heron Court, Jan. 2, 1848.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the resolutions passed by the Central Committee of the Archæological Institute, referring to the projected alterations in Christchurch Church. I beg you will assure the gentlemen who composed that Committee that it is through no want of respect towards them that I must decline submitting their representations to the Christchurch Committee, but because I do not find any one of their names upon the list of rate-payers or subscribers who are personally concerned and interested in the matter. If our Committee were to entertain the numerous and conflicting advices which they receive from indifferent persons they would be led into endless and fruitless discussions. The Archæological Society may rest assured that the strict forms required by the law will be observed before any alterations be commenced. With respect to their resolutions, I would take the liberty to observe, that the Society has been misinformed as to all the facts upon which their first reason is founded; that their second and third reasons are in concurrence with the opinion of many of the subscribers, and are entitled to the most deliberate consideration; that the fourth reason seems less substantial, inasmuch as the removal of the rood-screen would enable the spectator to choose his own distance for viewing the altar,—and that it is impossible to assert with any certainty what were the original details projected by the founder.—I remain, &c.,

Mr. Winston read a paper 'On the Painted Glass in the East Window of Bristol Cathedral,'—which has been lately repaired by the Dean and Chapter. The window is a Jesse window, having each of its lower lights filled with two oval panels formed by the branches of a vine and each containing a figure. In the upper tier of lower lights are representations of the Crucifixion, of the Virgin Mary, and of St.

John the Evangelist; and above the crucifix is the Divine Person in the attitude of Benediction. This last is entirely a modern figure; but there is every reason to suppose that it is in accordance with the original design. In the tracery lights above these figures are various heraldic achievements; but there are no heraldic borders of any sort in the window, except a border of yellow fleur-de-lis on a blue ground which occurs in three of the lower lights. Mr. Winston gave it as his opinion that this window is of the commencement of the reign of Edward III.; and that the four side windows of the choir are of the latter part of the reign of Edward II.

Mr. Hudson Turner read a paper 'On a large Collection of unpublished Letters of Edward II., when Prince of Wales, recently discovered in the Chapter House at Westminster.' These documents throw much light on the personal character of the Prince,—and show that generally speaking he was not on the best of terms with his father. Among them is a letter addressed to the Queen, praying her to intercede with the King to allow the Prince to have as one of his 'valets' Perot Gaveston. This is perhaps the earliest mention (1306) of the name of that celebrated favourite. The Prince's musical taste is shown in various directions for the purchase of musical instruments. One letter is particularly curious:—he sends his 'Rhymer,' a certain Robert, to the Prior of Shrewsbury, praying that he may be taught the minstrelsy of the 'crowthor,' or fiddle, by a musician in the Prior's service. There are many letters showing the corrupt administration of justice, and illustrating the subject of church patronage at the commencement of the 14th century.

Mr. Gomonde, of Cheltenham, communicated some observations on an example of the domestic architecture of the 15th century at Birt's Morton, Worcestershire; illustrated by drawings.

A paper was read, by Mr. Cosmo Innes, 'On two ancient Effigies in the Conventual Church of Arbroath in Scotland;' one of which is supposed to represent William the Lion, and the other being the figure of a bishop. The date of these sculptures appears to be the close of the 13th century.

Mr. Goldie, of York, sent a drawing of the founder's tomb in Gilling Church, Yorkshire: an interesting and unpublished example of a class of sepulchral memorials of which the tomb of Sir William de Staunton, in Staunton Church, Notts.—engraved in Stothard's 'Monumental Effigies'—presents the ordinary type.

The Secretary read a letter from the Rev. C. W. Bingham, of Melcombe, in Dorset, on a peculiar covenant in a farm lease of the reign of Edward III., providing for the proper manuring of the land. The farm consisted of twenty-four acres, and the rent reserved was the half of the produce of all grain growing thereon.

Among the antiquities exhibited to the meeting were nine large brass coins of the Emperors Maximian, Diocletian, and Constantius, in fine preservation—part of a large number found last summer at Little Malvern.—Mr. J. Talbot exhibited a fine specimen of the Celtic sword, found in Ireland, and an ornamented mace of office of the 16th century.—A spear-head of bone and other early British remains were sent by Mr. Adamson, of Newcastle.—Major Macdonald exhibited a fine collection of antique rings and other objects of interest, collected by him during his travels in the East.—Mr. Nightingale sent for inspection a reliquary, with a silver chain attached, taken from the neck of a skeleton in the churchyard of St. Dunstan's, Fleet-street, in 1831, and appearing to be of eastern workmanship;—also a box-wood case for a pair of knives, curiously and richly carved with the story of the Prodigal Son, the works of mercy, and the twelve apostles, with the date 1602 and the initials of the owner or carver.

DECORATIVE ART.—Jan. 14.—This and two previous meetings, on the 24th of Nov. and 10th of Dec. in last year, were occupied with the reading of a paper 'On the Recent Decorations of the Lyceum and Drury Lane Theatres,' by Mr. Laugher.—and discussions thereon.

ASIATIC.—Jan. 8.—Prof. Wilson, in the chair.—H. Borrodale, Esq., was elected a resident member.—The Secretary read a paper 'On the Paper Currency and Banking System of Foo-chow-foo, in

China,' communicated by R. Alcock, Esq., the British Consul at Shing-hai. It is well known that paper money has been for centuries used in China; and treatises on the ancient practice have appeared by European-Chinese scholars. But we have here, we believe, for the first time a detail of the practical working of a part of the system by a gentleman who has been placed in a position to see its action and results. It appears that the Government system of paper money, from various causes—more especially the bad faith of rulers and want of confidence in the people—gradually grew out of use more than two centuries ago, and that no attempts have since been made to revive it. But the Chinese people, seeing the real value of the expedient, have kept it up among themselves as a regular trade depending only on the personal credit of the parties exercising it, without any support or guarantee by the authorities. A want of uniformity in the system necessarily follows,—and the paper of one part of the country will be of no value in a distant quarter. The description of the trade of Foo-chow-foo, therefore, will possibly be found to suit that place only. It is understood that until within a recent period the paper money of Foo-chow-foo was merely a plan, by parties known to each other, of giving notes-of-hand when cash was scarce, and these notes were taken only by such parties;—that it was not until some considerable interval had elapsed that the issue of such notes became a separate occupation;—and that, until about fifty years ago the trade was but small. At that period it began to grow into favour; by 1815 notes of all amounts were in circulation: and paper is now nearly the sole circulating medium of the entire province,—the native coin being almost wholly superseded. The unrestricted way in which any one may issue notes has at times led to an over-issue and consequent depreciation; but the great competition resulting has had on the whole a good effect,—and by giving the public a choice out of a large number, it has confined all transactions of any considerable amount to parties in whom the public confidence could be safely reposed. From the nature of the security, these banks cannot assist the merchant in the remittance of money to distant places; nor do they take money on deposit for making payments by cheque. They will take deposits, paying interest at 9½ per cent.,—but only as a personal favour; and they require the whole deposit to be retained or withdrawn in one amount. But this appears not to be the case in the more northern provinces. The banking establishments of the city and suburbs are reckoned by hundreds; but the number of those of any stability is about thirty, with capitals varying from 500,000 to upwards of a 1,000,000 dollars each. This wealthy class forms a distinct body, which by co-operation regulates the market. Their notes are very rarely below par; they pass current with all parties; and they are readily cashed by any of the body. These bankers keep some twenty men in their general employ whose business it is to attend the markets, and to report to their employers everything that is passing; and the bankers upon their reports determine the relative prices of notes, bullion, and dollars. A considerable part of the business of the bankers is the refining of silver for payment of taxes to the government,—which must always be done in ingots of a certain size and purity; and a pretty large per centage is allowed to them for this trouble. They also make a good profit by making similar payments to the custom-house for merchants, whose payments are required to be made in the same way. Another source of profit is derived from the pawnbrokers' shops,—which are very numerous in China. These establishments receive a high interest for their loans; and they generally refuse anything in repayment but copper cash and bank notes; and each shop has its own banker, whose notes alone it will receive. Such a connexion is obviously profitable; and no banker can carry on a large trade without one. Some bankers have pawnbrokers' shops of their own; and one is known to have opened five in different parts of the city. Bankruptcies are very rare,—and are almost confined to the smaller banks. They are usually settled by private arrangement, without reference to the authorities; and the defaulters have in most instances paid 10s. or 12s. in the pound. Forgery is seldom practised,—and only for small notes. The highest punishment is trans-

portation to the distance of 1,000 miles; but it is more usually imprisonment or corporal castigation. In one instance a notorious forger, who had been several times prosecuted, was taken into the pay of the body; and he continues at this moment in their pay, being a very effective instrument in detecting the impositions of others. The bank notes are longer but much narrower than ours. They are surrounded by an elaborate border studded with sentences recommending the firm,—which gives them a pretty appearance. They are usually printed from copperplates; but some of the smaller banks find it more economical to use the ordinary wooden blocks. They represent copper cash, dollars, or sycee; and vary in value from about 1s. 3d. each to above 100l.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

- TUES. Linnean Society, 8, P.M.
— Institution of Civil Engineers, 8.—'On the Drainage and Sewerage of Bristol,' by Mr. J. Green.
WED. Geological Society, half-past 8.
— Society of Arts, 8.—General Meeting.
THUR. Society of Antiquaries, 8.
— Zoological Society, 3.—General Business.
— Royal Society, half-past 8.
— Royal Academy, 8.—Mr. Cockerell 'On Architecture.'
FRI. Archaeological Institute, 4.
— Botanical Society, 8.
— Royal Institution, half-past 8.—Mr. Lyell 'On Fossil Foot-marks of Reptile in Coal Formation of Alleghany Mountains.'
SAT. Asiatic Society, 2.

FINE ARTS

Gallery of the Imperial and Royal Academy of Fine Arts at Florence. Published with Copperplates by an Artistic Society, and illustrated by Distinguished and Intelligent Italian Writers.—[*Galleria dell' I. e Reale Accademia, &c. Florence.*] London: Hering & Remington.

IN an age when the windows of our publishers and printers are crowded with modern portraiture, transcripts from *tableaux de genre*, and travelling views, it is a relief to look on the continuation of this valuable work. The six concluding numbers are now before us:—and we earnestly recommend them to the consideration of the English student.

How sublime and simple is that 'Transfiguration' by Giotto!—one of the series painted for the sacristy of Sta. Croce,—and the original, it may be averred, of many a subsequent treatment.—To what master can the student better refer for a purifying influence than to the saintly Dominican, Frate Angelico, and his 'Agony in the Garden,' here rendered? How tender and sweet are the expressions of the heads of those three apostles, in various states of repose!—how delicate and sensitive the hands and feet,—and how beautifully cast and drawn the draperies!—'The Burial of Christ,' by the same, is full of pathos—and seems to have inspired the subsequent treatments of the same subject in one of the rooms of the Pitti, by Perugino, Fra Bartolommeo, and Andrea del Sarto,—as well as that by Francia in our own National Gallery.—'The Adoration of the Magi' may also be quoted as an instance of the same artist's peculiar powers. The combination in the principal group, where one of the Magi performs his devotion to the Virgin and Child, is simple, yet expressive; and the single figure of St. Bernardino da Siena is a perfect exemplification of holy character, not in the sense of asceticism and rigour, but in that of contemplative and happy repose. The head of Savonarola, by Fra Bartolommeo, his brother monk, is a most interesting counterfeit of the high-spirited reformer.—'The Agony in the Garden,' by Perugino, has the purity, without the amenity, of Angelico,—while it is more mannered. It exhibits those expressional treatments, even to precise casts of drapery, which in his scholar Raphael constitute what the learned call the *first manner* of "the divine painter." The same artist's 'Pietà' or 'Dead Christ' will be recognised as another counterpart of the Francia in our Gallery to which we have before alluded,—the prescriptive orderings of which are in no slight degree ascribable to such dogmas as the priests, who were the parties commissioning, imposed on the painter. Yet out of this apparent disadvantage the display of variety has been obtained; and the very tax on the artist's invention has provoked a large amount of originality.—'The Adoration of the Shepherds' renders all Ghirlandajo's disposition for matter of fact; and can not be considered a favourable example of the master—better known as he is at Florence in the tribune of Sta. Maria Novella.—Pesellino's 'Miracle

of San Antonio'—much resembling Angelico,—though pure and exhibiting great probability and artlessness in the design, is wanting in the appearance of sanctity and inspiration.—Our notice must conclude by referring to Massaccio's 'St. Anne, the Virgin and Infant'; a work giving but slight presage of these specialities which made some of the artist's later works objects of general study and imitation.

FINE ART Gossip.—The Trustees of the National Gallery, it is said, have just made arrangements for the occupation of premises in which to lodge temporarily the Vernon Collection of British Pictures—so that they may be immediately accessible to the public. It is to be hoped that no long time will be lost by the proper parties in providing for their permanent lodgement. The place at present adopted is Denew's Auction Room, at the top of Charles Street, Berkeley Square. It is situated in an obscure nook at the end of the left-hand side of the street, near Chesterfield Street, May Fair;—most out of the way, inaccessible, and very difficult to find.

Report speaks highly of a set of drawings, portraits of the Royal Children, which have been executed by Mr. Dyce at Windsor Castle as preparatory to their introduction in some fresco pictures which he has in progress at Osborne House. In this enduring material we have had transmitted to us in many a princely edifice in Italy the form and lineaments of important personages who have figured on the theatre of the world and in the recording page of history. In the apartments of the Vatican we have the Borgias—in Mantua, at the Palazzo Ducale and del Tè, the Gonzagns. The Bentivogli Portraits in the chapel of a church at Bologna are well known to travellers:—and we may add a few more instances. We have portraits of Cosimo de' Medici—*Pater patrie*—and of his family by Benozzo Gozzoli in the fresco of the Torre di Babele in the Campo Santo at Pisa—or Messer Carlo de' Medici by Fra Filippo Lippi in the Duomo at Prato,—of Dante by Giotto in the Bargello at Florence,—of Savonarola at St. Marco,—the Sasseti and other portraits of distinguished persons by Ghirlandajo at Florence—the eminent people of his day by Simone Memmi in the Capella dei Spagnuoli—a portrait of himself and of Fra Angelico by Luca Signorelli in the Duomo of Orvieto—and (as the crowning example of all) Pope Julius the Second, Marc Antonio, and the people of the Court, in the 'Heliodorus,' by Raffaele.

Mr. Horsley delivered a lecture 'On Colour' to the students of the School of Design, at Somerset House, on Friday the 21st inst. The lecture was well attended—the matter itself was generally good and to the point—and the room was hung with several pictures by Edwin Landseer and Mulready, lent to the lecturer by that true patron of English Art Mr. John Sheepshanks. Some clever novel diagrams designed by Mr. Burchett, one of the masters of the School, attracted a good deal of attention:—but the chief novelty of the night was four Academy drawings from the life made by Mr. Mulready with that fine and faithful eye for which he has long been famous. We were glad to observe, on the same occasion, that the collection of good examples belonging to the School has received of late some important additions.

We understand that Messrs. F. R. Lee and Sidney Cooper are engaged on the joint execution of a picture for the forthcoming Exhibition at the Royal Academy:—the former, of course, supplying the landscape and the latter the animals. This sort of executive partnership in Art is not very usual with us—though it was common enough in the Low Countries. Our readers will remember one such example at home in the 'Highland Harvest,' if we err not, produced by the combined pencils of Callcott and Edwin Landseer—and now in the Vernon Collection. The result in the present case is rumoured as a great success:—and we are informed that the picture has already found a purchaser.

Now that Taste—or at least the taste for talking about it—is diffusing itself throughout the land, it would not be amiss (says a correspondent) were a premium offered for the best design for a sentry-box. At present, there seems to be merely Hobson's choice for things of the kind. Be the occasion what it may, these constructions are one and all alike; evidently all of the same school—apparently all by the same artist.

Amid the revolutions of taste no change has come over sentry-boxes. Exactly the same ill-favoured specimens of carpenter's design and fabrication grace the reader can alter this word by the proper prefix—Barry's new façade to the Treasury and buildings of humbler pretensions. The influenza of ornamentation has attacked almost everything but sentry-boxes. These are unreached by the epidemic of improvement or the lessening of Schools of Design.

We are requested to state that Messrs. M'Lean & Co., not Mr. Hullmandel, were the printers of the lithograph after Stanfield's 'Sea View' which we mentioned last week [p. 88] in our notice of the recent Exhibition at the rooms of the Society of Arts.

Three early pictures by Edwin Landseer, the property of the late Mr. W. W. Simpson, the auctioneer, were sold on Wednesday last by Foster & Son. 'A Scotch Terrier with a Rat in his Mouth' on panel, five inches by four inches, realized 68 guineas; a small full-length portrait of Mr. Simpson's coachman, under the name of 'Waiting for Orders,' brought 32 guineas; and 'The Paddock,' representing an old chestnut horse with a stunted tail, a white scotch terrier near a piece of water, and Windsor Castle in the extreme distance, sold for 100 guineas. The old chestnut horse is capably painted, and the terrier with the rat in his mouth is a very good example of Mr. Landseer's lower line of excellence. Some presentation proof engravings after Mr. Landseer's works and with Mr. Landseer's writing upon them sold at high prices. 'The Highland Drover' by Watt (a proof before letters) brought 11 guineas; the 'Hawking Party,' by Cousins, 10l.; and the same sum was given for Six Vignettes, before letters, of illustrations of Sir Walter Scott's Novels. A proof of the 'Bolton Abbey' with a pencil inscription upon it in Mr. Landseer's writing was privately valued before the sale, and sold to Mr. Jacob Bell. This was done to preserve the inscription: which ran to this effect:—that the picture was painted for the purpose of showing that the artist was something more than a mere dog and horse painter.

The clay model for the Edinburgh Statue of Wellington is completed, and the Committee have recorded their approval of Mr. Steel's design. Preparations are now making for the casting in bronze—which is to be performed in Edinburgh.

We have been requested to call the attention of artists in general to a course of lectures which Prof. Ansted has undertaken to deliver at the School of the Society of British Artists—the first on Monday next. The subject is 'The Physical Features and Structure of the Earth in reference to the Picturesque representation of Nature';—and the following outline will explain the course which the Professor intends to pursue. The heads will be thus arranged.

The Atmosphere. Nature and composition of air; its relation to the eye and to vision. Its relation to the picturesque. The ordinary condition of air with regard to aqueous vapour. Production of various aerial effects.—Clouds: their formation, height, size, various kinds, form and colour.—**Water.** The distribution of water on the globe. Moving water and still water. The sea, its immensity and restlessness. Waves, their nature, magnitude and influence on the picturesque. Fresh water, brooks, rivers, torrents and waterfalls, lakes and ponds. Springs of water, natural fountains, hot springs.—**Land.** The general form and structure of land. Origin of the picturesque in the idea of form of land. Geological considerations illustrating the structure of the earth and the picturesque features of scenery.—**Mountain Scenery.** Truth of outlines in different kinds of Structure and picturesque character of bold and picturesque forms of mountains.—**Details of Land.** Various kinds of hills where structure is exhibited.—General character of the less bold features of scenery in England.—Island scenery considered in reference to the earth's structure.—**The influence of the laws of distribution of vegetables and animals on the picturesque.** Dependence of this distribution on climate and structural peculiarities.—**Park Scenery.** Combinations of bold and woodland scenery in harmony with nature. On the distribution of animals and their harmony with scenery.—On the form and distribution of extinct races of animals and vegetables, and their influence on the picturesque.—**Importance of the study of the earth's anatomy**

to the landscape painter especially, but to all artists to some extent. Necessity of truth in all delineations of nature.—The society wishes to afford every artist an opportunity of attending these lectures, and a free admission will be given to all who may apply for it. This body seems now much in earnest on the subject of education: and we rejoice to hear that its school already numbers not far short of one hundred pupils.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA, COVENT-GARDEN.

Established in 1817, for the purpose of rendering a more perfect performance of the Lyric Drama than had hitherto been attained in this country. The Nobility, Gentry, Subscribers and Patrons of Music are respectfully informed that the Season 1848 will commence the first week in March, in the new and commodious edifice constructed last year.

OPERA.

For the production of the established works by the great masters of every school—for the effective representation of the repertoire of seventeen operas mounted last season, and of compositions to be heard for the first time in this country, arrangements have been already made with the following eminent artists:—

PRIMI SOPRANI.—Madame Grist and Madame Persiani, Madame Jacobi, Mlle. Stefani and Madame Castellan (her first appearance); Mlle. Corbelli and Madame Anna Zola (of the Scala, in Milan, her first appearance in this country); and Madame Pauline Garcia Viardot (her first appearance).

CONTRALTOS.—Mlle. Albani.

TENORS.—Signor Mario and Signor Salvi, Signor Lavin, Signor Luigi Mei, from the Scala (his first appearance in this country); and M. Roger, of the Académie Royale de Musique and of the Opéra Comique in Paris (his first appearance in this country).

PRIMI BASSI BARITONI.—Signor Tamburini and Signor Ronconi.

PRIMI BASSI PROFONDI.—Signor Marini. The ratification of the engagement of Signor Corradi-Selli, the celebrated basso, is daily expected.

DISSO VOCE.—Signor Agostino Rotero.

ALTRI PRIMI BASSI.—Signor Tagliafichi and Signor Polonini.

SECONDO TENORE.—Signor Soldi (from the Scala).

DIRECTOR OF THE MUSIC, COMPOSER AND CONDUCTOR.—Mr. Costa.

The ORCHESTRA, comprising the distinguished professors of last season, will be increased by additional artists. The names of the instrumentalists forming the entire orchestra will be published in a future prospectus.

The MILITARY BAND, which has been also increased, will be under the direction of Mr. Godfrey, band-master of the Coldstream Guards.

The powerful and numerous CHOIRS of last year will be further strengthened by 24 chosen and experienced singers, and will number 28 voices—namely, 40 males and 24 female voices.

CHORUS MASTER.—Signor Bonaccorsi.

POET AND TRANSLATOR OF THE LIBRETTI.—Signor Maggioni.

PROMPTER.—Signor Montecchi.

THE BALLET.

The rule which gave satisfaction to the musical public last season, that no diversions should be suffered between the acts of Operas, will be strictly adhered to. The performances will terminate with a Ballet. During the Season the following eminent dancers will appear:—

Madame Flora Fabbrì (her first appearance).

Mlle. Léopoldine Bruni, première danseuse of the Imperial Theatre in Vienna (her first appearance in this country).

Mlle. Elizabeth Robert, première danseuse of the Académie Royale de Musique in Paris (her first appearance in this country).

Mlle. Camille (her first appearance for four years), Mlle. Thierry, of the Fenice in Venice (her first appearance in this country), Mlle. Langher, of the Scala (her first appearance in this country), Mlle. Elizabeth Ferranti, from the Scala (her first appearance), Mlle. Colette Stephan, Mlle. Honoré (her first appearance), and Mlle. Lucille Grah (her first appearance).

M. Silvani and M. Bretin (their first appearance); M. Gontie, &c., and a numerous body of coryphées, promeneuses and figurantes. Maître de Ballet, M. Arpiani, from the principal theatres in Italy, France and Belgium. Répétiteur de la Danse, M. O'Bryan, leader of the Ballet, Mr. Alfred Meil; Composer, Signor Biletta. The scenery by Messrs. Grise and Tabin.

Première Artiste Costumière, Mrs. E. Bailey.

Engagements are pending with other distinguished artists for Opera and Ballet.

A detailed Prospectus, with the arrangements for the Season, will be ready in a few days, and may then be obtained at the Box-office (corner of Bow-street and Hart-street), and at the principal Libraries and Music Publishers.

The Season will be opened with a GRAND OPERA, in which Mlle. Albani will make her first appearance; and with a new FAIRY BALLET DIVERTISSEMENT, in which Madame Flora Fabbrì will make her debut.

Royal Italian Opera, Covent Garden. Jan. 24, 1848.

THEATRE ROYAL, DRURY LANE.

GRAND OPERA.

Twelfth Night of 'THE BRIDE OF LAMMERMOOR'—Sixth Night of 'LINDA OF CHAMOUXY'—Eighteenth Night of 'THE MAID OF HONOR'—First Night of 'THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO'.

Auber's New Grand Opera.

M. JULIEN has the honour to announce that he has succeeded in purchasing the copyright of Auber's New Grand Opera, entitled 'HADJEE, ou LE SECRET,' which is now performing nightly in Paris, with such extraordinary success. This work is in active rehearsal at the Theatre, Royal, Drury Lane, and will be produced with as little delay as the magnitude of the preparations will allow.

On MONDAY NEXT, January 31st, Her Majesty's Servants will perform Donizetti's Opera, entitled

'THE BRIDE OF LAMMERMOOR.'

Edgar (Master of Ravenswood), Mr. Reeves; Colonel Ashton, Mr. Whitworth; Raymond, Mr. Weiss, and Lucy Ashton, Madame Dorcas.

The Orchestra conducted by M. Hector Berlioz.

After which, an entirely new Divertissement, entitled

'L'INVITATION A LA FÊTE.'

The Scenery by Messrs. Grise and Tabin. The Music composed expressly by M. Maréchal. The Ballet composed and produced by Mr. B. Barnett.

Principal Dancers—Mlle. Duval, Madame Guibé, Madame Louise, and M. Zaytseff.

On TUESDAY, 'LINDA OF CHAMOUXY,' and the New Divertissement.

On WEDNESDAY, 'THE MAID OF HONOR.' Principal characters by Mr. Reeves, Mr. Whitworth, Mr. Weiss; Miss Birch, Miss Miran, and Mrs. Weiss. After which, the New Divertissement.

On THURSDAY, for the First Time, Mozart's Opera, 'THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO.' Principal characters by Mr. Whitworth, Mr. Weiss, Mr. Gregg, Mr. Santiago; Miss Miran, Mrs. J. Lee, and Miss Birch. And the New Divertissement.

THEATRE ROYAL, DRURY LANE.

M. HECTOR BERLIOZ has the honour to state that his FIRST GRAND CONCERT (VOCAL AND INSTRUMENTAL) in this Country, will take place in the THEATRE ROYAL, DRURY LANE, on MONDAY, Feb. 7th.

Full particulars will be duly announced.

WEIPPERT'S SOIRÉES DANSANTES, PRINCESS'S CONCERT ROOMS, MONDAY, January 31, and every Monday. A Subscriber of Two Guineas is entitled to an admission for himself and Lady any Six Nights during the Season. Single Tickets 7s each. WeipPERT's Palace Band as usual, conducted by himself. N.C. Mr. Corrie. The Refreshments and Supper by Mr. Payne, of Drury Lane and Covent Garden Theatres. Commence at Eleven, conclude at Three. Tickets and Programmes at 21, Soho-square.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis for the Evening Service, with Organ Accompaniment, by Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy.—This is another of the last works of the composer just published—another cause of regret that the fountain has closed for ever, and of gratulation that it has yielded so much. The 'Magnificat' appears to us Mendelssohn's noblest piece of English service-music—close and severe enough to satisfy the severest, but as little dry as Palestrina: while it contains passages of a bold and symmetrical design which prove that the writer did not consider the exhibition of science as absolving him from the development of idea. Of this, the first verse offers fine proof in the alternation and admixture of its two subjects. In the verse 'And his mercy,' we may call attention to the antiphonic use of solo and chorus, accomplished with an absence of abrupt contrast admirably befitting a style in which, while variety is admitted, surprise is ineligible as theatrical. Again, the verse 'He hath filled the hungry,' during which the organ is silent, is a delicious, unaccompanied, sacred quartet—at once interesting and ecclesiastical,—while the fugue which follows is no less excellent as an example. We have specified in this short composition four distinct and various artifices all happily employed. Yet is the entire service less patchy than many a work in plain counterpoint which the select admire, while to our irreverent ear it sounds like a heap of crudely harmonized notes without meaning. To judge from the number of efforts every year laid on the organist's desk, nothing can be more easy than to 'fit up' a 'Magnificat,'—to judge from the pages we are closing, few things are more difficult than to write one.

The Fourth of the Twelve Grand Symphonies by Mozart recently discovered is now published arranged as a pianoforte duet. It is less attractive—dare we say, more childish?—than its predecessors; though, in places, melodious after Mozart's own fashion. The second strain in the *Andantino Grazioso* is newer than most new Italian melodies produced since Rossini ceased to write: yet, how natural is it!—The *Presto Assai*, too, in spite of the vulgarity of its subject, exhibits touches of the master-hand.

Six Duets—Polacca; Three Waltzes; L'Entréti; Military Movement; Pastorale; Serenade; La Gracieuse, a Rondo—for the Pianoforte, by T. M. Mudie,—are a pleasant offering of music, at once good and easy. The titles of the Duets promise character: and the promise is kept. Without any direct imitation, the Polacca reminds us in its style of some of the brilliant violin movements by Mayseder, where the Scotch twist* is employed with so piquant an effect. The Serenade, again, though not equal in nature or grace to Moscheles' Serenade, is winning and not sickly. The Pastorale, too, is in the right style. Care has been taken in all these compositions to write not merely what shall suffice, but what is worthy. They are neatly finished, as well as pleasing;—and may be safely recommended to all pianists of moderate means who are, nevertheless, affronted by having child's music set before them.

PRINCESS'S.—The late Sir Charles Morgan's theory that the human mind was like a barrel-organ, capable of receiving and uttering but a limited number of tunes at a time, however disconcerting to preachers of progress, is capable of being illustrated with whimsical emphasis from the records of Art. In our theatres, too, limitation of range and poverty of invention receive small disguise from variety of present-

* This term comes the most readily to hand by way of description; but we are reminded not to vouch for its correctness, by having just turned over the *Siciliana* of Pergolesi 'Ogni pena più spietata,' in which the figure, thus nationally characterized, forms a leading feature.

ment. Where is the actor or actress in our time—Mlle. Rachel, perhaps, excepted—who has done a really new thing?—where the musician, since Paganini?—(and his novelties, let us parenthetically say, had better have been left undone, for any good influence they were calculated to exercise). To come from these to the minors:—here is pleasant Madame Thillon; who, after having witched the world with her eyes and her smiles and her ringlets into almost giving her a place as brilliant French vocalist near Mesdames Cinti-Damoreau, and Dorus-Gras, seems now anxious to succeed to the English throne so long and gaily occupied by Madame Vestris,—having dashed without the pale of “legitimate opera” and taken service in those mixtures of comedy and song which—in spite of the class containing an individuality and an idea—are utterly unsatisfactory. The “barrel-organ theory” is particularly disagreeable in Music. As little as we like old-Popish religious painting got up in the 19th century—as little as we can recognize grim abuses of the German theory of discords calling themselves “English scientific compositions”—so little are we contented with poor reproductions of the ‘Rosina’ school, in itself maudlin and marking a time of nonage, and no longer to be endured. A good ballad is charming; but a drama in which the musical business consists of ballads at best comes too exclusively within the catalogue of small wares to excite anything beyond an idle and fruitless pleasure—not unaccompanied by after-shame that we have enjoyed it. ‘The Young Guard,’ though not poorer than other melo-dramas of ‘The Brigand’ family which have been accepted, is not strong enough to pass muster now without its ‘sweet sauce’ of music; while Mr. E. Loder’s clever and agreeable tunes and symphonies cannot entitle the work to rank as an opera—they being at once better and worse than such ditties as ‘The Streamlet,’ ‘The Bud of the Rose,’ and ‘Somebody.’ The casual public is contented;—and the piece runs with moderate success; but it must be a special public, whether for opera or drama, which sustains the character, and we are inclined to believe fills the treasury, of a theatre—and no class in particular is hit by ‘The Young Guard.’ We may take this opportunity of saying that so un-operatic was the execution of Auber’s charming ‘Ambassadress’ as to claim no record in an artistic journal.

OLYMPIC.—On Wednesday night the tragedy of ‘Macbeth’ was performed for the purpose of introducing Miss Glyn—announced in the bills as the pupil of Mr. Charles Kemble—to the London public. This young lady is understood, with the exception of a few rehearsals at Manchester, to be a mere novice,—but one from whose dramatic impulses great things have been expected. She comes before us not in the character of a finished or practised actress,—but as one who with due encouragement may be expected to become a distinguished ornament of her profession. It is with propriety, then, that she has made her appearance specifically as a Pupil; and it is as such that we have to record the result of her *début*.

Miss Glyn is a brunette, rather tall, of a well-proportioned figure, and expressive features. Her eyes are large and dark,—and she has a prominent, intellectual forehead. It was evident from her entrance that she was suffering from excessive nervousness. There was, nevertheless, in her early scenes a marked intention—not fully brought out. The voice faltered—at times all but failed,—and the action was embarrassed. As the play progressed, however, the text was more strongly pronounced; and it was interesting to note the gradual increase of confidence from scene to scene. The interval between the third and fifth acts appears to have given the *débutante* both repose and confidence,—for on her re-appearance in the sleep-walking scene it was at once apparent that she was in better possession of her voice and action. This solemn part was played in a manner which proved incontestably that Miss Glyn has in her the true elements of the acting art. At its close the audience manifested their sense of its merit by prolonged plaudits.

Such were the prominent features of this *début*:—from which it will be clear that we should err in hastily pronouncing on Miss Glyn’s pretensions. We must wait for further experiment. Meantime, the instance confirms the old safe doctrine that professional eminence is most surely attained by a careful

measuring of all the ground that commonly leads to it. In intellectual matters it is a rare event to *surprise* success. Miss Glyn suffered much from a want of knowledge in technicals; doubly so—in the want itself, and in the increase of embarrassment which the consciousness of it brought. A course of provincial training would have made Miss Glyn, we doubt not, a great actress:—with proper allowance for the difficulties of her position and a little generous encouragement she will, we believe, become so without it. We are content at present to record that her style is eminently natural and unaffected, and free from any tendency to rant or exaggeration.

Mr. Stuart performed *Macbeth*, and nearly killed Miss Glyn’s part by the high colour of his own performance. He ventured boldly for the honours of the night—and drew down much of the thunder. Mr. Stuart is at all times an intellectual performer; and his conception of this character was such as should have won him better honours than the theatrical “gods” have to bestow. But it is his misfortune often to throw away in the execution the gift of a bounteous imagination—when he has got his passion right to tear it to tatters. He exaggerates his truths until they become falsehoods. On this occasion his excitement grew by feeding on itself till it entered into the region of extravagance. It is wonderful how infectious this sort of thing is. The key-note which he had pitched so high was accepted by the other performers—and there were moments when the roaring was tremendous. His excessive electricity communicated itself to Mr. Holl, who played *Macduff*; and the two raved against each other in a manner wonderful to see and hear. At one time we thought Mr. Holl was going mad:—assuredly he executed certain manœuvres which we are unwilling to lay to the account of his rational thought. All this was very lamentable—particularly as set off against the clearness and sobriety of apprehension evinced by Mr. Stuart.

The tragedy was put on the stage well and carefully;—Lock’s music being retained, and the choral band of witches as a consequence. Some novel effects were introduced—one of which must be mentioned. In each great crisis of the monarch’s life—such as the murder scene, the battle scene, &c.—the Weird Sisters are shown bodily in the background watching the fulfilment of their prophecy and mocking at the fortunes of *Macbeth*. There is a fine poetical idea in this, no doubt. The sense of a destiny hunting the footsteps of the King is suggested. Some of the deeper morals of the piece are thus presented to the spectator in material form. But as these are left by Shakespeare himself to be inferences only from his scheme—as this palpable comment on the action is not justified by any reference to his text—we feel as if we should have got rid of some of the objections likely to be taken against this innovation if the suggestion had not been a sensuous one—if the morals had been enforced by some shadowy indication only of the unearthly and evil presence at all the great periods of the tale of guilt and retribution. Besides, the bodily presentment, unless managed by skilful actors, is on the verge of burlesque. It is, as we have said, a fine idea—difficult of execution—and not exactly to be reconciled to the principle of non-interference with Shakespeare’s own language of interpretation.

After the fall of the curtain, Miss Glyn was called for, and greeted with hearty and unanimous applause.

HAYMARKET.—The new farce entitled ‘Dearest Elisabeth,’ produced last Saturday, is French in spirit, though not, we believe, in fact—and not greatly to be approved on the score of its ethical tendency. The objections, however, lie rather against the story than against the dialogue. The author’s intention is to paint a laxity of manners—in his persons and incidents, which he ridicules in the spirit rather of a wit than of a moral censor. His characters are, to begin with, Mr. *Lionel Lax* (Mr. Keeley), and Mrs. *Lionel Lax* (Mrs. Caulfield). The gentleman is a very general lover; and writes a letter, commencing “Dearest Elisabeth,” which falls into the hands of *Betsy*, the servant, (Mrs. Keeley). To further her own designs, the latter takes the opportunity of informing her master that she is in possession of the important document. Mr. *Lax*, for the purpose of

getting out of the scrape, pretends that the letter was intended for herself. This the vain, pert and cunning domestic willingly believes—and she readily accepts and returns the usual demonstrations of attachment. Now, it happens that *Betsy* is a married woman,—married in secret to her fellow-servant, *Humphry* (Mr. Clark), the special confidant of Mr. *Lax*. To him the guilty master discloses the affair with *Betsy*. Great is the indignation of the man; and Mr. *Lax* finds himself in a new predicament of perplexity. A friend comes in to the rescue—Mr. *Winch* (Mr. Rogers); who is persuaded to state that he had dictated the letter and that it was intended for a fair friend of his own. *Betsy*, meanwhile, has been frightened by her husband’s rage. She joins in the plot against poor *Humphry*, and makes him deliver up the letter—of which, in the course of the *mélée* of events, he had obtained possession. The fun, however, is not yet exhausted. There is a Mrs. *Winch* (Mrs. Buckingham) newly married, who opportunely arrives; and turns out to be the real “Elizabeth” to whom the unlucky epistle had been addressed. At first, the lady is wroth with Mr. *Winch*; but the insidious *Lax* in a whisper gives her the cue—which insures her silent acquiescence. Mrs. *Lax*, entering at the moment, might have caused further embarrassment; but that her wily husband coolly proceeds to light his cigar with the letter—and quietly, while it consumes, to amuse himself with an apologue, in which he symbolizes the lighting, progress and extinguishing of love by that of the flame which he has created and is about to destroy. This he does finally by placing his foot on the expiring embers:—and such is the whimsical catastrophe of this singular farce. Mr. Keeley performed with his accustomed natural humour—and Mrs. Keeley with that low-life archness in which she has no competitor. Mr. Clark also proved effective. The mirth produced was uproarious; and the notion of the piece, though liable to be misunderstood, is certainly ingenious. It is attributed to Mr. Oxenford.

SADLER’S WELLS.—The management have added another to their series of Shaksperian revivals, in the production with great taste and splendour of ‘Twelfth Night; or, What You Will.’ This play, with all its beauty and romance, has rarely been better represented. The cast of characters is well adapted to the company. There is no play which in some respects presents greater difficulties, or better illustrates Shakespeare’s method of working. It is necessary, for instance, to refer to the English ‘Historie of Apoloniuss and Silla,’ in order perfectly to understand the situation of *Viola* at the opening of the drama,—and thus get rid of the apparent improbability of a young lady of delicacy, immediately on her shipwreck, conceiving the plan of captivating a foreign prince and supplanting the object of his affections by becoming his page and mediator in his “whole course of wooing.” By the tale referred to we are informed that the lady had long previously loved the prince, and forsaken her friends and country in pursuit of him. It is Shakespeare’s custom, however, to hide the root and basis of his action below the surface,—giving, in such cases, the smallest amount of explanation possible. This is a source of much perplexity to the performer; and is one cause why (to name an instance out of many) the character of *Macbeth*—whose political position is by the poet taken for granted—has been uniformly misinterpreted by the actor. In like manner, the part of *Viola* has been misapprehended. These remarks particularly apply to Miss Addison’s conception; she having evidently contented herself with the bare text, and not entered into the spirit with sufficient penetration. Her assumption was both pleasing and spirited,—indeed, we never saw this lady act better,—but it was wrong. There was nothing either of patience or melancholy in it;—plenty of pertness and amusing swaggle, and altogether such an air of buoyancy and mirth that the celebrated passage—

She never told her love, &c.—came in as a surprise and a discord. Such a mistake would have been impossible had this clever actress had in her mind the statement in the ‘Historie’ above alluded to. Here, however, our contention ends. The beauties of Miss Addison’s impersonation were, its conception being granted, so many that we

are embarrassed in the attempt to particularize them. Every scene had its especial merit. All the parts were carefully pronounced, and the business was indicated without haste or hesitation. *Olivia* was played with much grace by Miss Cooper. The *Malvolio* of Mr. Phelps is a part by which he will be remembered. The making up is so complete that the actor's person cannot be identified until he speaks. The execution of the part is equally complete,—elaborately finished,—thoroughly carried out to the minutest particular. The trio consisting of *Sir Toby Belch*, *Sir Andrew Aguecheek*, and *the Clown*, were respectively performed by Mr. George Bennett, Mr. Younge, and Mr. Scharf. Criticism would be superfluous on their acting:—the stage does not possess three performers better suited to the parts. This house continues to be crowded nightly.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC GOSSIP.—The programme of the Royal Italian Opera has been published, with the names of the artists concerned. We have already announced most of these—*Rumour* on the present occasion appearing to have been more than usually accurate—but we may as well recapitulate, with a comment or two.—*Prime donne*. *Soprani*. Mesdames Grisi, Persiani, Castellan (we presume, as at Paris, to double Madame Persiani), Zoin (new to England, and, we believe, a *buffa* singer), Viardot-Garcia (for whom an entirely unworked repertory is in contemplation), Corbari, Stefani and Ronconi.—*Contralto*. Mdlle. Albani.—*Tenors*. MM. Mario, Salvi—Roger (at the close of the season), Lavia, Mei and Soldi (the last two new).—*Baritones and Bassi*. Signori Tamburini, Ronconi, Marini, Rovere, Tagliafico and Polonini; also, conditionally, Signor Selli (new).—Signor Costa's orchestra is to be increased and improved: the chorus to be strengthened by twenty-four voices. The name of the new acting manager is not mentioned. The *ballet* is, obviously, to be subsidiary to the opera,—the principal *dansesuses* announced being Madame Flora Fabbri and Mdlle. Lucille Grahn.—Signor Biletta to be composer of the music.—Nothing, it will be owned, can well be ampler than the above list of the operatic corps. It remains to be seen on what music the artists thus gathered are to be employed. The season will commence in March—and we have heard with Mdlle. Albani as *Tancredi*.

A contemporary says that Mr. Lumley's programme for Her Majesty's Theatre will probably announce the following artists.—*Prime Donne*. Mdlle. Jenny Lind, Mesdames Tadolini and Albadia, Mdlles. Molteni, Vera, and Crivelli, (the last lady having been mentioned to us as of extraordinary promise, on good authority). *Contralto*. Mdlle. Schwartz. *Tenori* Signori Gardoni, Cuzzani, and Labocetta. *Baritones and Bassi*. Signori Lablache, Coletti, F. Lablache, Bouché, and Beletti. For the *ballet*, Mdlles. Rosati, Carlotta Grisi, and Marie Taglioni—also Mdlle. Cerito and M. St. Léon. This list has reached us at the eleventh hour, and may be open to revision and correction. It seems more liberal and promising than any of Mr. Lumley's previous programmes. The season, we are told on the same authority, will begin in February.

We some weeks since mentioned the ecstasies of our dear, conceited brethren of the pen and press in Paris over the "discovery" of Mdlle. Albani—their applause being *italicized* by a pique against Mdlle. Jenny Lind for her impenetrability to all their temptations to come and be "discovered" likewise! They are in raptures, too, with the young *contraltos* having put an end to the "*urli*" which the new school of Italian music demands, and which the works of Rossini preclude;—the young lady having, with Madame Grisi, gained as much applause in the revival of *La Donna del Lago* as if Robert le Bruce had not been a dead failure at the *Académie Royale*. Out of these amusing assumptions, egotisms and inconsistencies we can pick a testimony to our own prophetic wisdom; which has again and again pointed out that if new singers are to appear they must belong to the old school.

M. Berlioz has made an ample and varied selection for his concert on the 7th of February; which is to consist of his overture to 'The Carnival of Rome,' his 'Harold' Symphony with *alto solo*, a chorus from his 'Requiem,' another from his Triumphant and Funeral Symphony, and two parts of his grand

cantata 'Faust' (which, we believe, he projects arranging for the stage). Besides this, Madame Dorus Gras and Miss Miran will sing songs of his composition. We have rarely looked forward to any entertainment with greater curiosity.—The *Morning Post* mentions that the 'Iphigenia' of Gluck is for the present laid aside at Drury Lane: where all parties are on the alert for the immediate production of Auber's newest opera. On musical grounds, the former measure may possibly be inevitable;—on financial ones, the novelty may in every respect be advisable. But as part of the connoisseur-public, we must seriously regret the postponement.

We may take this opportunity of mentioning that Mr. Hullah's choristers on Wednesday evening repeated 'Acis and Galatea,'—also, the 'First Walpurgis Night' of Mendelssohn, with some of the 'Midsummer Night's Dream' music. We must, however, call attention to one fact connected with this entertainment in every respect welcome to us: to wit, the deep attention and avidity (our words are not too strong) with which the general audience enjoyed the instrumental music,—insisting, almost beyond the power of denial, on the repetition of the 'Midsummer Night's Dream' overture, in spite of the late period of the evening at which it was performed. This is a testimony not only to the great excellence of Mr. Willy's concert band, but also to that ill-understood thing—the taste of an English public. Mr. Hullah's chorists have announced a coming performance of 'Judas Maccabeus,' at which Mr. Sims Reeves will sing.

Mr. Dando announces the recommencement of his Quartet parties in the Throne Room, Crosby Hall. Since at these chamber entertainments pianoforte trios are sometimes given, we may be permitted to ask why the four *Trios* of Beethoven for stringed instruments are never heard? They would amply repay the trouble of rehearsal; being in some respects even more ingeniously masterly than the composer's Quartetts of the same date. We suspect, too, that they are now among the most unknown works of Beethoven.—We observe, by the way, that the Parisian *Conservatoire* is about to introduce the incidental music of 'Egmont,' as well as the overture. Is this beyond the power of the Philharmonic Society? While we ask the question, we must remember that national tastes differ:—our "born enemies" having accepted as a stock-piece the Dervise Chorus from 'The Ruins of Athens,' to which we Londoners could hardly be brought to listen at all.

An interesting addition to the memoirs of Beethoven is going the round of four foreign contemporaries; being a letter from Herr Fuchs' collection of autographs,—addressed, in the year 1807, by the composer to the direction of the Court Theatre at Vienna. Beethoven was then in his thirty-seventh year; and had composed his 'Fidelio,' some among his Symphonies, and many other instrumental works. In the document cited, however, while he adverts with permissible complacency to the standing which he had already gained, he explicitly proclaims that his professional exertions had hitherto been so insufficiently required as to make him seriously contemplate quitting the Austrian metropolis to seek fortune elsewhere. But, declaring his preference for Vienna as a residence, he announces that he is anxious to complete a compact which shall bind him there permanently provided the conditions be fairly advantageous. According to this, he professes his willingness to write an opera yearly for the fixed annual sum of 2,400 florins (240*l.*), and the receipts of the fifth night;—to produce annually also, an opera or *divertissement*, choruses, or occasional pieces such as the direction may require, on condition that in return he be allowed the use of the theatre for a benefit concert. That the terms of this letter were not acceded to, and that Beethoven nevertheless remained in Vienna, are well known. If we permit ourselves the fascinating but ungrateful indulgence of speculating on events which never happened, such a plan becomes little less tantalizing than the magnificent list of literary works which Coleridge drew out as only waiting his leisure and kinder fortune to be prepared for the press.

The success of Mr. Wallace's 'Mariana,' recently produced at Vienna, is said not to have equalled expectation.—The Hungarian Singers, fourteen in

number, have been executing, at Brussels, some of the music from 'Hunyadi Lascio,'—the national opera by Herr Erkel of which M. Berlioz spoke in his letters from the Lower Danube in terms of praise.—The music is described as being entirely original in form and colour. Let us hope, if this be so, that it will cross the Channel.

MISCELLANEA

Paris Academy of Sciences.—Jan. 17.—M. Babinet read the report of a committee on a paper by M. Jamin on the colours of metals.—A report was read on the paper of M. Michel relative to the determination of the orbits of celestial bodies.—M. Lallemand read a report on a paper by M. Jobert (de Lamballe) relative to the treatment of fistula.—M. Combes laid before the Academy various means of employing gun-cotton with advantage in the working of mines.—M. Dumas, in the name of M. J. Béclet, gave an account of a series of experiments on the circulation of the blood in man.—A communication was received from M. Audouard, on the presence of arsenic in the thermal springs recently discovered near Villecelle-Lamalon, in the department of the Hérault.—M. Deschamps, of Avallon, submitted some considerations on the existence of copper in the human system. He attributes this fact to the nature of the soil and food.—A letter was received from M. d'Aubré, giving an account of various accidents in mines caused by the explosion of gas.—M. Leverrier communicated several extracts from letters which he had received from different astronomers, chiefly relative to their observations of comets.—M. Mauvais communicated a letter which he had received from M. Argelander, director of the Observatory of Bonn, correcting an error of M. Vico who had announced the disappearance of a particular star which had been marked on the celestial chart.—A paper was received from M. de Castelnau, giving an account of his observations on the reptiles of South America, during his travels in that part of the world. In the four years and a half of his travels in South America, M. de Castelnau was only able to collect 91 snakes, forming 61 species, of which 53 are innocent and 11 venomous.—A letter was received from Dr. Plouviez, of Lille, with an account of an experiment on a dog with chloroform. A small dog, weighing about eight pounds, was made to inhale a gramme and a half of chloroform. At the expiration of 10 to 15 seconds the animal was in a state of insensibility. The breathing was soon difficult, and in a short time the animal was dead. The time that elapsed between the exhibition of this dose (about the twentieth part of an ounce) and death was a minute and a half. On dissection, there was nothing to indicate the cause of death. Dr. Plouviez, in order to ascertain what course could be taken in the event of such an accident occurring to a human patient, made several experiments with various animals which were ceasing to breathe after the use of chloroform. He introduced air into the lungs in the same way as is done with persons who have been suffocated with the fumes of charcoal, by stimulating the act of respiration and from time to time slightly compressing the chest. By adopting this means all the animals speedily resumed their former state. In some cases he even waited until the breathing had entirely ceased and the animals were apparently dead. In various periods of time, from thirty seconds to four minutes, he was able to bring them to life.

Halliwell's 'Life of Shakespeare.'—We continue to receive a variety of letters relating to matters suggested by this publication. We select the following:—

Shakespeare's Father.—Jan. 24.—Your correspondent S. L. has opened a very interesting question respecting the social position of Shakespeare's father. If I rightly understand his letter, Mr. Halliwell says no grant of arms was made to him before 1596, because he styles himself *yeoman* in that year. A yeoman of the time of Queen Elizabeth was a sort of gentleman farmer, as mentioned in the old lines,—

A knight of Calais, a squire of Wales,
And a hind of the North Countree,—

A yeoman of Kent, with his yearly rent
Would buy them out all three.

According to Ferne, there were six classes of persons entitled to the rank of gentlemen. Some could be *gentlemen* with imperfect coat-armour; but only three classes could possibly have that title entirely without a right to arms—viz., students of common law, sons of peasants made priests or canons, or those who were brought up in the ser-

vice of dignitaries of the church. Not a word is said of persons entitled to coat-armour dispensing with the title of *esquire* or *gentleman*. If, therefore, John Shakspeare was styled a yeoman in 1596, I conclude there is not much doubt that he was not then entitled to coat-armour. Surely Mr. Hunter would resolve this question finally—for I do not know any writer so capable of deciding it. But I can assist by producing a very pertinent quotation from Ben Jonson's 'Every Man out of his Humour,' which has not been mentioned by heraldic writers:—"I faith, I thank them, I can write myself gentleman now, here's my patent, it cost me thirty pound, by this breath." I am, &c. ESQUIRE.

Shakspeare's Religion.—Jan. 26.—Those of your readers who are interested in the discussions relating to Shakspeare's biography will recollect how ingeniously Mr. Hunter accounted for the disappearance of his MSS., by supposing that the religious zeal of his descendants prompted them to destroy any papers relating to theatrical matters. Connected with this subject, I wish to call your attention to a document in Halliwell's 'Life' which seems to have escaped your notice—or perhaps you did not consider it of much value. To me it is of great interest; as tending to establish the religious opinions of the great Poet. I refer to the following entry in the accounts of the Chamberlains at Stratford for the year 1614:—"Item, for one quart of sack and one quart of claret wine, given to a preacher at the New Place, 2s. 11d." New Place, as every one knows, was Shakspeare's residence; and in 1614 he was certainly at Stratford. The preacher of course belonged to the Reformed religion, or the corporation would not have paid for his entertainment; and I think it was most probable he was invited to New Place by Shakspeare, for the Poet was not connected with the Corporation, and there is no other reason accounting for the entry. This would help to dispose of the belief that Shakspeare was a Roman Catholic—as stated a hundred years after his death by Davis.

Shakspeare's Circumstances.—Among the new documents printed in this work is one entitled 'Copy of the Articles with Mr. Shakspeare, A.B., 1614'—which has occasioned some doubts and disputes among a few of us who have been canvassing the worldly career of the great Poet. As you have lately afforded a small space in your paper nearly every week for these discussions, I should be very glad if the exact nature of the MS. can be ascertained by any of your correspondents. It appears to me to be only part of a MS.—and relates to the enclosures near Stratford in which Shakspeare had an interest. Now, enclosures generally improve the value of property; but this is an agreement between a person of the name of Replingham and Shakspeare, in which the former covenants to satisfy Shakspeare for any loss that he may sustain "for or in respect of the increasing of the yearly value of the tithes" held by Shakspeare. This appears to show that Shakspeare farmed the tithes for so much a year, and made what he could out of them; but the subject evidently requires further investigation and Mr. Halliwell's commentary on it is nearly as obscure as the document itself.—I am, &c. E. L.

Mr. Barry's Octagon Court at the New Houses.—The visitor to the new Houses of Parliament should make a point of inspecting the roof of the Octagon Court or central hall of Mr. Barry's great work. The task is rather a dusty one; but masons' dust forgotten, the ascent is by easy enough scaffolding, and the sight is really wonderful. Conceive 250 tons of stone fashioned into one roof,—and that one roof containing seventy-two bosses, and each boss when uncarved (as they were when we saw them) of the size of an ordinary millstone! The roofs of Henry the Seventh's Chapel at Westminster and King's College Chapel at Cambridge supply a world of wonder to strangers ignorant of the principles of architecture; but here the wonder must be greater when they see the enormous mass of masonry which Mr. Barry has built like a heaven over head. These vast bosses will be fashioned into roses and portcullises,—and when seen from the ground, will be at a distance of about 90 feet. This octagon court is as striking an illustration of the magnitude of the works now in progress at Westminster as any we could find about the whole building.—*Daily News*.

The National Clock.—When completed, the Westminster Palace clock will be the most powerful one in the empire. According to the specification given in certain Parliamentary papers which have been published, it is to "strike the hours on a bell of from eight to ten tons, and, if practicable, chime the quarters upon eight bells, and show the time upon four dials about 30 feet in diameter." With the exception of a skeleton dial at Malines, the above dimensions, as remarked by a writer in *Chambers's Journal*, surpass those of any other clock-face in Europe. The dial of St. Paul's is as yet the largest in this country with a minute hand; it is 18 feet in diameter. The new one is to be an eight-day clock, and as perfect as possible. Its formation is to be under the direction and approval of Mr. Airy, the Astronomer Royal. Among the conditions drawn up by him are these:—The frame to be of cast-iron; wheels of hard bell-metal, with steel spindles, working in bell-metal bearings, and to be separately ship-

ped and unshipped. Accuracy of movement to be insured by dead-beat escapement, compensating pendulum, and going fusee. The first blow of the hammer, when striking the hour, to be within a second of true time. Galvanic communication will probably be established with Greenwich Observatory. The four sets of hands, with the motion wheels, it has been calculated, will weigh 12 cwt; and the head of the hammer 200 lb; the weights from 150 to 300 lb; and the pendulum bob, 3 cwt. One of the candidates proposes to jewel the escapement pallet with sapphires. The motion of the minute hand is not to be constant; it will move once every twenty seconds, when it will go over a space of nearly 4 inches. The papers alluded to contain the names of three candidates for the honour of making the national clock—Mr. Vulliamy, Mr. Dent, and Mr. Whitehurst of Derby. Two estimates have been sent in, one for 1,600*l.*—the other, 3,373*l.* "As it is intended," says the Astronomer Royal, "that this clock should be one of which the nation may be proud, I would propose that the access to it should be a good one, and even slightly ornamented, and that facility should be given to the inspection of the clock by mechanics and by foreigners."—*Builder*.

Ornamental Roofing Tiles.—During the past week two vessels have arrived from Belgium freighted with ornamental roofing tiles. They are of a blue, or slate, colour,—and cost, as we understand, about the same as slating. One pattern in form resembles a leaf,—and would when placed upon a roof have a picturesque effect. The use of these tiles appears to be extending. We recently noticed that they were used for the Church at Staplefield, Sussex. St. Paul's Church, Hull, has also been roofed with them,—as well as the boat-houses on the Serpentine, in Hyde Park.—*The Builder*.

Post Office Increase.—In 1839 Mr. Rowland Hill expressed a confident anticipation that the effect of his Penny Postage would be to increase the number of letters transmitted by post five-fold within a very few years. The statement which we subjoin shows that this prophecy is already all but verified. The number of chargeable letters transmitted by post in 1839 was 76,000,000,—in 1847 it amounted to 322,000,000.—*Daily News*.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—A Subscriber—W. F.—W. H. S.—Mr. B.—M. A. S.—A Sufferer—received.

G. R.—The poem about which this correspondent asks is published by Messrs. Macmillan & Co. of Cambridge.

Mrs. Crowe and we mean the same thing. A person whose manuscript memoirs are read at a distance of many years may, in a certain sense, be said to relate all that is in them. But our objection to Mrs. Crowe's phraseology consists in this—that without distinct reference to the memoirs, Lady Fanshawe's *revelation* is spoken of in such language as would lead a reader to think that persons yet alive had heard it from her own lips. None would understand it otherwise except those who knew the circumstances. We do not remember that any one word of Mrs. Crowe's narrative would give the knowledge that all this happened nearly two hundred years ago; and we thought it not unlikely that by the same use of language many stories as old might have been made (without intention of course) to appear recent.

Dr. B. A. is informed that the *Athenæum* cannot afford space to the series which he proposes.

A CHEMIST.—Our correspondent is answered that we have on a former occasion [*Athen.* No. 996] entered fully into the merits of the question between Mulder and Liebig—and do not intend now to re-open the discussion. For his own private satisfaction, however, the following—Liebig, in his works for some years made the Protein Theory his own by stating that protein did exist in all albuminous matter—but eventually he denied that it could be found. This eminent chemist in his 'Chemistry of Food,' which we reviewed on the appearance of Dr. Gregory's translation (*Athen.* No. 1039), states that Kreative, discovered by Chevreul in 1835, is really an essential ingredient in flesh; whereas even Chevreul regarded it only as "an ammoniacal salt, formed by the combination of ammonia with an organic acid"—and Berzelius, who could not obtain kreative from raw beef, says—"If it should be found in the liquid in which beef has been boiled it would evidently be the product of a metamorphosis." Kreative cannot be detected in the juices of animals until they have been concentrated by boiling. Kreative is only procured by exposing kreative at the heat of 212° to the action of dry hydrochloric acid gas,—or by mixing it with sulphuric acid. Liebig, with his usual confidence, says ('Chemistry of Food,' p. 141) "Kreative and kreative are constituents of the muscles." All the reactions given by Liebig show a strong analogy between kreative and ammonia. Therefore, we are not prepared to adopt Liebig's views—leaning rather, for the present, to those of Chevreul and Berzelius.

Errata.—P. 62, col. 1, l. 43, for "Dutch" read *Deutsch*.—P. 68, col. 3, l. 39, for "Thomas" read *Joseph*.—P. 69, col. 2, l. 32, for "Two" read *Toro*.

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